

## Party monopoly ends as Russia breaks with 70 years of history

# Gorbachov's 1990 revolution

### Growing power of President attacked

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party leadership agreed yesterday to break with more than 70 years of history and end the party's exclusive right to rule.

The vote to approve the draft political platform — including revising Article Six of the constitution which guarantees the party's "leading role" and the introduction of a presidential form of government — was hailed as a signal victory for President Gorbachov's attempts to reform the Soviet system from within.

The reforms had come in for fierce opposition from party reformists and traditionalists alike at the extended crisis Central Committee meeting.

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical former leader of the Moscow Communist Party, described the draft platform as half-hearted and ambivalent and was reported to be the only person to vote against it.

Mr Yegor Ligachov, formerly number two in the Soviet hierarchy, attacked what he saw as the tendency to weaken the unity of the party and condemned its tolerance of "anti-socialists" and "nationalists" within its ranks.

But after hours of debate, Mr Vyacheslav Fyodorov, a leading eye surgeon attending the plenum as an observer, emerged to declare: "There will be no Article Six. There will be a multi-party system."

We will have normal democracy. It's fantastic."

Mr Alexander Yakovlev, a politburo member, said later that the Cabinet and President would have full power and that would be a step forward to democracy.

The strength of feeling, especially among defenders of the Communist Party's traditional monopoly on power,

"The communist parties in Eastern Europe are doomed to extinction," Professor Silvia Brusan, one of the leading lights of the struggle against the Ceausescu regime in Romania, points to the technical and scientific changes that have, he says, made the ideology "irrelevant". Page 12

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was such that the two-day meeting was continued into yesterday, and even after the platform had been approved, it dragged on into the evening as delegates discussed the Lithuanian Communist Party's decision to declare itself independent of the Soviet Party. The session ended with delegates condemning the Lithuanian decision and calling for it to be suspended.

The over-run, complicated plans for the first evening of the US Secretary of State Mr James Baker's Moscow visit, which had twice been postponed to accommodate the Central Committee session.

Reports of the meeting revealed a split between those who wanted yet more thoroughgoing reform which would eventually turn the party into a political group like any other, and those who blamed the reforms undertaken so far for what they saw as the anarchy and indiscipline destroying the stability of the country.

Delegates criticized Mr Gorbachov's proposals to extend the power of the president, some because they disapproved of one-man rule, others because they thought it would weaken the authority of

the Communist Party still further.

The Secretary for Ideology, Mr Vadim Medvedev, said that nothing less than the survival of the party was at stake. "Either we prove able to lead a rapid but controlled process of transformation, or it will become an uncontrolled deluge and fall under the influence of populist demagogues or even fanatical leaders of pogroms," he said.

Mr Medvedev flew to London shortly after the vote and stood alongside Mrs Margaret Thatcher outside 10 Downing Street as she hailed the vote as "a great decision".

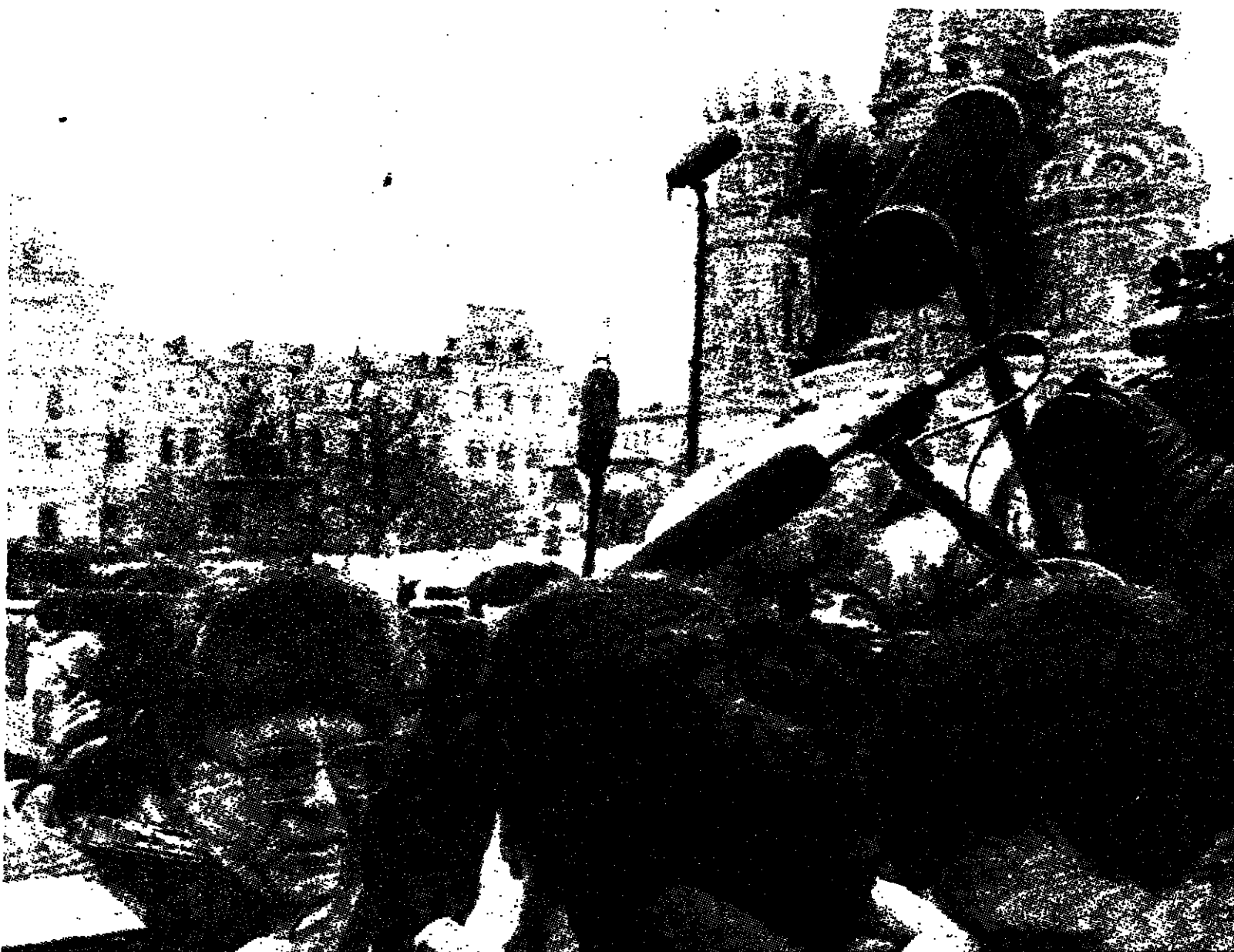
Mr Medvedev said the decision showed the Soviet Communist Party and its Central Committee were full of vigour and wanted to promote perestroika and deepen it. He had earlier rebutted claims made by some delegates that perestroika had caused the country's problems — it had merely brought them into the open, he said.

His words were echoed by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, who said the plan would give perestroika a new lease of life. "If we cannot consolidate healthy forces, tomorrow there may emerge chaos and anarchy. In these conditions it is easy to foresee the entry of dictators large and small with nothing to prevent them turning back the development of our country."

On Tuesday, Central Committee members had heard Mr Ligachov — who is regarded as the leader of the conservative wing of the leadership — voice misgivings about the direction the party was taking, in particular its tolerance of nationalist opinion within its ranks and calls for the acceptance of private property, which he said should be the subject of a referendum.

He also defended publicly from Mr Gorbachov's policy on the unification of Germany and linked reformers in the Politburo with the decision to use force against demonstrators in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, last April.

Mr Ligachov emphasized Continued on page 22, col 4



Red Square scramble: Reporters crowding in on Lieutenant-General Yuri Shatalin, a Central Committee member, as he leaves the Kremlin yesterday.

## Emergency alert as gales strike

By Robin Young

The Ministry of Defence, police, fire brigades and local councils were on emergency alert last night after the Meteorological Office issued warnings of widespread storm-force winds.

Warnings of the "severe and damaging" weather approaching were sent to all bodies which might be called on to deal with the aftermath of the storm sweeping in from the Atlantic.

The forecast was for winds reaching 90mph on the coasts and 70mph inland, with gusts up to 100mph, reaching the

Premium rates for household contents and motor insurance are likely to rise as much as 25 per cent by the end of 1990 because of the recent storm damage. The rush of claims is expected to top £3 billion in Britain alone. Page 23

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south of the country between 10pm yesterday and 3am.

Last night the first gale-force gusts from an expected 12 hours of wind and rain began buffeting the South-west. Weather officers forecast an all-night storm passing

over the United Kingdom in a north-easterly direction whipped up by a "vigorous" Atlantic depression.

They feared winds could be as strong as those which battered southern counties on January 25 killing 47 people and causing damage estimated at £1 billion. This time, though, the North was expected to suffer as well.

Fears were growing last night for the four-man crews of two 12ft boats working the sandbanks of the River Dee on Merseyside. Lifeboats from West Kirby and Hoylake were launched in worsening weather conditions and coast-

guards began searching the shoreline.

The South-west and Wales had already been particularly badly hit by yesterday's squally weather. Gales and floods were affecting many parts of the region.

Train services were cancelled in South Wales and parts of Scotland after heavy rain. River authorities were on red alert in many areas.

Gusts of up to 100mph were reported in the South-west, and AA Roadwatch said motorways and major roads were flooded throughout southern England. In South Continued on page 22, col 1



Mr Gorbachov: Carried the day against hard-liners.

## Saunders fails to stop trial reports

By Michael Horsnell and Frances Gibb

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, lost a legal battle yesterday to prevent reporting of the first of two trials he faces over the company's £2.5 billion takeover of Distillers.

The first trial will begin on Monday when Mr Saunders, aged 54, and three other defendants will face a number of criminal charges arising out of an alleged illegal share-support operation mounted by Guinness during the company's successful bid.

A second trial at which Mr Saunders and three different co-defendants will appear will begin in October.

Yesterday he lost a complex legal battle to prevent the reporting of the first trial until the end of the second on the grounds that contemporaneous media coverage would prejudice the later hearing. After a legal challenge by all

sections of the media to his application for a contemporaneous news ban, the Court of Appeal refused Mr Saunders leave to appeal against a judgement last week by Mr Justice Henry at Southwark Crown Court.

The Appeal Court ruling also means that for the first time the media are able to

report that Mr Saunders faces two trials. The ruling has averted a widely-feared danger that the case would, as Mr Justice Henry put it, disappear behind "a curtain of reporting restrictions".

Reporting has been subject to unprecedented restrictions under the 1987 Criminal Justice Act which apply in serious fraud cases, of which the Guinness trial is the first big test case.

## Identity parade for attack girl

By Stewart Tisdler and Stephen Watt

A girl aged seven who was abducted and sexually assaulted took part in an identity parade last night, believed to have been conducted with the use of a video camera.

Mr Ralph Hazems, solicitor for Mr Russell Bishop, aged 23, who is being held by police investigating the abduction and assault, and several of Mr Bishop's relatives, were also at the police station at Brighton, East Sussex.

The girl was found abandoned and naked at a beauty spot near Brighton on Sunday. Magistrates agreed on Tuesday that Mr Bishop could be held for a further 36 hours.

Police said they had found the clothing taken from the girl. They are appealing for the driver of a red Ford Sierra seen near the area at the time of the attack to come forward.

## King refuses help to Wallace inquiry

By Sheila Gann, Nigel Williamson and Edward Gorman

Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, made clear last night that he is not prepared to co-operate with a parliamentary inquiry into Mr Colin Wallace's allegations of a smear campaign against senior politicians in the 1970s.

His defiance threatens severely to hamper the Conservative-dominated Commons defence committee's inquiry into the affair announced earlier yesterday in spite of the insistence of Mr King and Mrs Thatcher that there is not enough evidence to justify it.

The committee was originally reluctant to become embroiled in the affair, but changed its mind, according to Mr Michael Mates, its chairman, after admissions by the Ministry of Defence of "some maladministration" in the handling of the affair.

The decision coincided with fresh allegations by Mr Wal-

lace that British intelligence used smear tactics against Mr Charles Haughey, the current Irish Prime Minister, during a general election in the Irish Republic in 1973. Mr Wallace also alleged in a letter to Mrs Thatcher yesterday that the House of Commons was still being given false information.

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mittee after the announcement of the inquiry, Mr King refused to give assurances that he would authorize the questioning of his officials by the defence committee.

"There has to be an order in these things. We cannot have four people investigating at the same time into the same thing," he insisted. The personal conduct of individuals is Continued on page 22, col 7

## No10 dispenses medicine for ills of the press

By Nigel Williamson  
Political Staff

Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, dropped his usual cloak of anonymity yesterday as "sources close to the Government" went on the record with a withering attack on the failings and foibles of the press.

At a press gallery luncheon at the Commons, Mr Ingham placed his stethoscope on the heart of the Fourth Estate and diagnosed five debilitating sicknesses afflicting the "raddled diseased body" of the public prints. "The illnesses I have isolated in journalism are probably old viruses in acute form. They are nevertheless rife."

Le Carré syndrome includes a tendency not to believe every word uttered

by Mr Ingham and his army of government press officers. "It conditions the journalist to the conspiracy theory of life, not merely of politics, and to reject absolutely the cock-up theory of the human experience."

The Conan Doyle complication, a closely related complaint, has reached "epidemic proportions", resulting in journalists who "never go for the simple explanations when an elaborate theory can be constructed".

Colman's porridge is "a social contagion particularly affecting diarists and gossip columnists arising from intercourse with the chattering classes. It is marked by a wilful refusal to check any fact lest a paragraph is lost to truth."

The Coleman/Carpenter phenomenon "is a condition which ensures that the

basic facts of the case, like, for example, what the Prime Minister actually said, are never reported."

But the most serious disease of all is Separatistitis. "This is an unshakeable belief in the media's entitlement to lead a privileged existence."

Mr Ingham, a former *Guardian* and *Yorkshire Post* journalist, but now apparently enjoying the security that comes with a self-diagnosed clean bill of health, said of his present profession: "I sometimes compare press officers to riflemen on the Somme, mowing down wave upon wave of distortion and taking out rank upon rank of supposition, deduction and gossip while laying down a barrage of facts behind which something approximating to the truth might advance."

RAISED IN THE  
HIGHLANDS.



THE  
FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

### INSIDE

#### The weather in depths

As extremes in the climate become ever more pronounced, and meteorologists are forced to revise their methods of forecasting the world's weather, a £1 billion project involving an international team of scientists is looking — not to the skies, but to the oceans — for the answers. Our four-page Science & Technology section, beginning on page 33 reports on the mysteries of Earth's "thermal conveyor".

#### Portfolio PLATINUM

There were seven winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 31

#### Exam results

A further list of London University degrees is published today. Page 30

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It's INGHAMITIS —  
a need to be  
always right...





## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Minister rules out law on governors

Legislation will not be used to stop local authorities filling school governing bodies with their political supporters, Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in a letter made public yesterday by Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman (Douglas Broom writes).

However, the minister condemned Conservative and Labour councils which have removed political opponents from governing bodies, substituting their own nominees. Higher standards in education could not be achieved unless governors were prepared to work for the good of the school "without regard to political allegiance", Mr MacGregor said.

Mr Straw presented a Bill to the Commons requiring councils to ensure that governor nominees reflected the political balance on the council. He condemned the Labour-controlled Manchester City Council's dismissal of all Conservative members from governing bodies. Its example has been copied by Conservative-controlled Barnet, Wandsworth and Kent, as well as the Isle of Wight, which is SLD-controlled.

## Spares dealer guilty

Robert Whyatt, aged 41, of Billericay, head of an Essex-based car parts firm, was found guilty at Liverpool yesterday of conspiracy to steal and re-sell components from the Ford plant at Halewood on Merseyside (Ronald Faux writes).

An employee, Robert Crotty, aged 29, of Chadwell Heath, London, and Mrs Lynn Jones, aged 33, of Dingle, Liverpool, were found guilty of handling stolen goods. Nine other defendants have already pleaded guilty to related charges. All 12 will be sentenced today. His warehouse manager was found not guilty of handling stolen goods.

## Satellite check on art

An art and antiques theft register that can be used to beam high-quality images of stolen works across the globe was launched yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). The satellite system is being offered to auction houses, collectors and dealers keen to ensure the goods they handle are not stolen property. The system will also be used to scan world art market catalogues to spot suspicious items.

See room, page 6

## Snatched baby plea

Mrs Shanika Glover, aged 22, mother of a baby snatched from her husband's car, made an emotional appeal for his return yesterday (Ruth Gledhill writes). Police are searching for a mystery caller to a helpline who they believe could hold the key to the abduction. Mrs Glover, who is living in a hostel, broke down at a press conference at Southall police station, west London, yards from where her son, Ames, aged 5½ months, was abducted on Monday evening.

## Tory MEP leader vote

Sir Christopher Prout, QC, was yesterday re-elected unopposed as leader of the Conservative MEPs in a move seen as vindicating his attempts to bridge the gap between the 32 MEPs and Downing Street (Michael Binyon writes from Brussels). The deputy chairman, Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for Kent East, was also unopposed. The group retains its strongly federalist flavour, with re-elected members including some strong former critics of Mrs Thatcher.

## Food disease move

The Government may make food poisoning illnesses such as typhoid and salmonella notifiable diseases, Mr Roger Freeman, junior Health Minister, hinted yesterday (Our Technology Correspondent writes). He said on BBC TV's *Open Air* there were strong arguments that doctors should notify such diseases. A Department of Health spokesman said a review of which diseases should be made notifiable was being undertaken but no decisions had yet been made.

## 350,000 warrants out over unpaid poll tax

By Kerry Gill

Summary warrants have been issued in Strathclyde to more than 350,000 people, including almost a third of those liable to pay the community charge in Glasgow, in an effort to recoup unpaid bills.

In the region, which has almost half Scotland's population, summary warrants have been issued to more than 20 per cent of the 1.75 million people liable to pay.

Strathclyde is prepared to

write off up to 5 per cent of the £331 million it should collect in poll tax revenue compared with only 1 per cent under the rating system. Mr John Mallin, convener of the region's finance committee, said people still had time to pay.

Sheriff officers in Lothian region began action against non-payers and people in substantial arrears to assess goods which can be set aside for sale against debts.

## Loyalists' murder threat after IRA bomb

By Edward Gorman  
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Two "loyalist" paramilitary groups said yesterday that future IRA attacks on workers at the Short Brothers aerospace plant in east Belfast would lead to instant retaliatory murders of Catholics.

The warnings came after the third IRA bombing of the overwhelmingly Protestant company in seven months. A 30lb Semtex device detonated yesterday morning inside a hangar where work was being carried out on an RAF training aircraft. No one was injured and damage was minimal.

In a statement to a local radio station after the attack, the Provisional IRA said it now regarded those of Short's 7,000 labour force who were working on defence contracts as legitimate military targets. They would be regarded as

targets similar to building contractors and suppliers working for the security forces in the province, 13 of whom have been killed in IRA car bombings and shootings since June 1985.

The IRA added that a warning had been given this time to avoid casualties. Next time there would be no warning before attacks on what the Provisionals called "military areas" of the factory.

Last night the Ulster Freedom Fighters, the military wing of the "loyalist" Ulster Defence Association, and the Protestant Action Force, a cover name sometimes used by the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, both issued warnings that Catholics would be targeted if the IRA killed or injured workers at Short's.

In a call to a news agency, the Protestant Action Force said that

retaliatory violence would be instant. Two Catholic workers employed in "loyalist" areas of Belfast would be killed if any Short's worker were injured or killed by the IRA.

In a statement last night, Short's, which was sold in June to the Canadian company Bombardier, said it was aware of the IRA threat, but declined to comment about measures being taken to counter it.

Yesterday's attack is an embarrassment for Short's, which has tried to improve its security since IRA bombings in November and July. The company has kept security under constant review since the first attack, and has taken a number of measures, including installing a new perimeter fence and stepping up the frequency of security patrols.

Local trades union leaders and politicians from both communities condemned the attack as an assault

not only on people's lives but also on the Northern Ireland economy. Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Republic's Foreign Minister, said yesterday he believed a fire at the headquarters of the Stevens inquiry outside Belfast early last month was started deliberately and had destroyed all the files accumulated by the team.

Speaking in the Irish Parliament in reply to a question, Mr Collins said: "I am concerned at what appears to be a deliberate effort on somebody's part to burn out the Stevens inquiry head office, which destroyed all the documents that had accumulated during the course of the inquiry."

Mr John Stevens, the deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, has been leading detectives investigating allegations of collusion between Protestant paramilitaries and the

security forces in Ulster. A fire at his headquarters at Carrickfergus caused extensive damage to the control-room on the night of January 10.

An RUC investigation into the cause of the blaze has yet to be completed. In a statement after it happened, Mr Stevens attempted to head off speculation about arson. He said the fire had begun in a locked room during a change in teams of officers on night duty.

He said all the records and files had been duplicated as a matter of course beforehand and the investigation would not be impeded. Government sources in Dublin last night were unable to offer any clarification of Mr Collins' remarks or say whether they were based on information received from the British authorities or merely his own opinion.

## Devolution of power urged for regional development

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A huge devolution of power away from Westminster to the regions to ensure a better distribution of economic development throughout the country was urged in a report published yesterday.

Regional assemblies would be set up with a brief to produce a regional strategy and local offices of government departments would be accountable to the assemblies.

The far-reaching proposals in the report, published by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, would involve the creation of regional banks, decentralization of the media with a regional location for the headquarters of Channel Five, and more local programmes in radio and television.

Local authorities would be freed from restrictions preventing economic development and would be encouraged to develop municipal enterprises to create jobs and wealth.

The report calls for elected regional assemblies and devolution of power to become the core of a national strategy for employment and economic rejuvenation.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said at its launch that Albania was the only European country which was more over-centralized than Britain.

He said that the concentration of power and wealth in the South-east meant that the interests of the rest of the country took second place. "We always have to slow down the economy in the interests of the overheating South-east just as manufacturing industries in the regions are beginning to get underway again," Mr Gould said.

The objectives of the proposals would be to distribute employment and economic development throughout the country, particularly to areas

which suffered most during the last decade, to ensure the focus of policy was on producing employment and economic growth and decentralize and restructure decision making.

Under a programme for action, the report demands a review of government research and development, the encouragement of regional banks and venture capital schemes. Economic regeneration centres and local economic innovation centres would be developed and local authorities would be able to develop new social and municipal enterprises.

The report calls for directly-elected regional assemblies and a study into the idea of a "Council of the Regions" on the lines of West Germany. The assemblies would be ordered to produce strategies for their own areas and local offices of central government would be responsible to the assemblies.

In the private sector, the report suggests that all public procurement policies would be reorganized to ensure regional equity, merger policy would be reviewed to enable regional implications to be assessed, and large firms would be required to provide statements on the regional policies being pursued.

The report, written by Mr John Darwin, of Sheffield City Council's employment department, says a more radical and committed drive towards removing inequality and increasing prosperity was essential.

*The Enterprise Society: Regional Policy and National Strategy* (Centre for Local Economic Strategies, Alberton House, St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester M3 2WJ; price £15)

## Artist claims tax relief for eye surgery



John Bratby, the artist who is claiming the cost of eye surgery against income tax, with his wife, Patti, in Paris yesterday.

John Bratby, the artist whose blazing colour and sculptural quality of his oil paintings are a trade mark, is to test the Inland Revenue over the repair of the most vital tools of his profession, his eyes (Simon Tait writes).

Mr Bratby, aged 60, a member of the Royal Academy, is still unable to paint after an operation to repair perforated

retinas. He has been told there is a 25 per cent chance of failure, which would mean he could not paint again. "I need both eyes to paint in oils. At the moment I can just about draw, but no more," he said.

The three-hour operation, at King's College Hospital, south London, just before Christmas, cost £2,000. He returns there next week because he is

still unable to see out of his right eye. The eye needs daily bathing in belladonna and doses of antibiotics.

Mr Bratby has instructed his accountant to claim the cost of the operation against income tax. "A photographer claims for his cameras, his lenses. I claim for my paints, my brushes and my canvases, but the most important tool of

my trade is my eyes. I can't work without them, so I can't earn any money," he said.

He was speaking from Paris, where he is working on *Artists' Quarterly*, of which he is editor. However, he is unlikely to pursue his claim through the courts. "There seems to be no precedent but it is an interesting idea which ought to be tried," he said.

## Thatcher's attitude dismays her MPs

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The inner circle of Conservative backbenchers has protested to the Prime Minister about the high-handed attitude of ministers formulating policy.

The complaints came at a private, hour-long meeting between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the 18-strong executive of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs on Tuesday afternoon.

Afterwards, many MPs were disappointed that she had not listened more closely to their concerns. There had been no evident meeting of minds.

They were dismayed that the promise of more responsive leadership in the wake of Mr Nigel Lawson's resignation

and Sir Anthony Meyer's doomed challenge to her last year had apparently not materialized.

The Prime Minister spent most of her time defending her position. The tone of the meeting was described as civil but negative. She was said to have gone on "auto-pilot" as she justified the level of Treasury support for local government.

The internal split over Hong Kong passports was cited as an example of how a controversial policy had been drawn up without reference to backbench opinion and then understandably run into fierce opposition. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr David

Waddington, the Home Secretary, who appeared before the executive the week before, were clearly the target.

Mrs Thatcher evidently judged that after the turmoil of past weeks over the community charge and Hong Kong it was time for her to make clear there could be no further concessions, that she was committed to the positions taken and that she expected her backbenchers to put aside their criticisms and swing behind her and her ministers.

MPs also complained that the government whips were acting like a pressure group rather than taking soundings of opinion.

## One in four English water rates to rise 58 per cent in three years

By Our Political Correspondent

One in four water rate payers will face increases of up to 58 per cent over the next three years, the Government said yesterday as it tabled charging limits for 26 of the 27 statutory water companies in England.

Big rises are needed to pay for the £1.7 billion investment in the water industry over the next decade in the wake of privatization.

The latest figures set out permitted increases which will be monitored by the director general of water services. Charges will rise sharply from 1990/91 to 1992/93 but will then increase more slowly.

Mr David Trippier, Minister for the Environment and the Countryside, said that the Government's proposals - most of which require formal finalization - would allow charges to rise by 6.5 per cent a year on average, after allowing for inflation over the next five years.

After that, he said, the average increase would be less than 2 per cent for five years.

Nevertheless, some huge increases are expected in the next three years. They include Bournemouth (62 per cent), East Anglian (52 per cent), East Worcestershire (54 per cent), Eastbourne (48 per cent), Tendring Hundred (70 per cent), West Kent (50 per cent) and Wrexham (52 per cent).

Mid Sussex's increase will be put forward shortly, and final figures for 20 companies will be fixed after the 28 days for appeals.

Mr Trippier said that over the next 10 years prices would rise by an average 23p on the present monthly bill. "In

## STATUTORY WATER COMPANIES - CHARGES LIMITS

Determinations and proposed determinations announcement of February 7, 1990 (as percentage increase)

Companies	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	Each year from 1986 to 2000
Bournemouth	18.5	18.5	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bristol	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Cambridge	12.0	10.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Chester	4.5	4.5	4.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Cholderton	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Colne Valley	10.0	10.0	10.0	7.5	7.5	1.0	1.0
E Anglian	19.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	3.0	1.0	1.0
E Surrey	16.5	16.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
E Worcs	25.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Eastbourne	20.0	20.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Essex	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	4.5	4.5
Folkestone	18.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.0
Hartlepool	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Lea Valley	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2.5	2.5	0.0
Mid Kent	9.0	9.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Mid Southern	11.5	11.5	10.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
Mid Sussex	8.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Newcastle	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	2.0	2.0
N Surrey	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Portsmouth	9.5	9.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Rickmansworth	6.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
S Staffs	7.5	7.5	7.5	5.0	5.0	2.0	2.0
Sunderland	12.5	10.5	8.5	8.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Sutton	22.5	22.5	13.0	13.0	2.5	2.5	2.5
Tendring Hndrd	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
W Hampshire	20.0	20.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.5	1.5
W Kent	15.0	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wrexham	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

\*Charges limits determined 1 to be announced

considering these limits, we have considered with each company its future programmes, operating costs and financing needs to the end of this century.

"We have had particular regard to the improvements in drinking water quality required to secure or facilitate compliance with the requirements of the drinking water quality regulations," he said.

Mr Trippier said that investment to renew old infrastructure and to augment water resources "to overcome the kind of shortages experienced

during recent droughts" was also catered for.

A £40 million scheme to end the misery of flooding for thousands of Berkshire homeowners is being proposed by the National Rivers Authority.

A seven-mile long ditch, up to 60 yards wide, is proposed to divert flood water around the towns of Maidenhead, Eton and Windsor. Officials from the authority are drawing up final maps for the channel route. It would cut a huge swath through farm pastures and land rich in gravel deposits and a number of homes

would have to be demolished. Thames Water, a forerunner of the authority, first looked at the scheme six years ago.

A channel would start at Taplow Hill to take excess flood water around the east of Maidenhead, through Dorney and Eton, allowing it to empty back into the Thames west of Windsor.

The National Rivers Authority is to pay consultants £68,000 to investigate last year's water restrictions in the South-West when thousands of consumers faced problems during the summer drought.



Noel Johnson: An underpaid "special agent" who quit.

## Dick Barton comes clean about BBC

Trouble and Dick Barton Special Agent go hand in hand (David Sapped writes). It was as true yesterday as it was almost 40 years ago, when the cult radio show abruptly disappeared from the airwaves amid rumours that the BBC considered it a bad influence on youth.

Breaking the agent's code of silence for the first time, Noel Johnson - the first of three actors to play the role - said why he had quit in 1949.

It was not because "the role started to take over his life", as the BBC's press release would have it in a blatant example of disinformation. Rather, he disclosed, he had left because the corporation's godfathers were underpaying him.

"I got 2,000 fan letters a week, yet I had less money in the bank than before. I started," Dick the First said. "I felt I was underpaid."

All of which rather spoiled the party at Broadcasting House, called to bring the Bortons - Mr Johnson, Duncan Carse and Gordon Davies - together for the first time to launch a Radio 4 documentary, *Still a Special Agent*, to be broadcast next week.

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# Saunders fails to ban Guinness case reports



Mr Ernest Saunders: Facing two trials.

By Michael Hersnell

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, failed yesterday in an attempt to ban reporting of the first of two trials arising from the bitterly contested battle between his company and Ansell to take over the Distillers drinks group.

Mr Saunders will be the only defendant to appear in both trials, the first of which opens at Southwark Crown Court on Monday. He had argued that contemporaneous reporting of that case would prejudice the second.

But yesterday the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling by Mr Justice Henry on Monday that it would be wrong for the trials to "vanish for months behind a curtain of reporting restrictions", clearing the way for light to be shed for the first time on what is seen as the City trial of the century.

The ruling yesterday means not only that the first trial may be reported, but also that journalists may report for the first time that there are to be two trials.

The core allegations against the seven men who face proceedings concern an alleged illegal share support operation mounted by

Guinness during the company's successful £2.5 billion bid for Distillers.

The media are not allowed to report the details of the indictment against the four men involved in the first trial — Mr Saunders; Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron Corporation; Mr Anthony Parnes, a former City stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons the financier — until a Crown Court jury is empanelled.

The four defendants in the second trial, which is expected to begin in October and last four months, are: Mr Saunders; Mr Roger Seelig, former Morgan Grenfell corporate finance director; Mr David Mayhew, senior corporate finance director of Cazenove; and Lord Spens, former corporate finance director at Henry Ansbacher Bank.

The severing of the indictment on the grounds that a jury could not be expected to cope with a global trial was ordered on September 21 by Mr Justice Henry who will preside over both trials.

It was he who last week turned down an application by Mr Saunders, supported by two of his co-accused, for an order under section 4 (ii) of the Contempt of

Court Act, 1981, postponing reports of the first trial until the end of the second.

The judge ruled that his decision was not part of the preparatory hearings for the trial, and therefore not covered by the blanket ban on reporting such hearings. It could not, however, be reported until yesterday when the Court of Appeal refused Mr Saunders leave to appeal against the ruling.

Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Potts held yesterday that fair and accurate reporting of the first trial should not cause prejudice to the hearing of the second, and dismissed a "bold leading article".....13

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assertion" by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, counsel for Mr Saunders, that Mr Justice Henry fell into "fundamental error" in his approach to the discretionary exercise involved in considering whether to impose a reporting ban under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act.

Lord Justice Russell said Mr Justice Henry's judgement was "careful, reasoned and closely

analytical" in setting out the issues. The court was satisfied it would be quite wrong "to interfere with the exercise of his discretion."

The judges said their judgement and that of Mr Justice Henry could be reported, but that the legal argument leading up to each ruling could not.

They also held that Mr Saunders had no right of appeal against the ruling.

Lord Justice Russell rejected Mr Ferguson's central argument that Mr Saunders had the right of appeal because Mr Justice Henry had embarked upon an exercise which involved a question of law. It had not been demonstrated that any question of law relating to the case had arisen in Mr Justice Henry's judgement, he said; and even if there had been issues of law for him to determine, it had not been demonstrated that the judge erred in the way he approached his task.

The judges endorsed Mr Justice Henry's comments on the standard of reporting required during the forthcoming trials. It would have to be fair and accurate, and newspapers and broadcasters would have to have proper regard to preserving

the fairness of the second trial. Mr Justice Henry added: "To this end, the media must ensure they have proper internal discipline. It is primarily for the media to comply with the law and to inform themselves sufficiently to be able to do so to protect the fairness of the second trial."

He said fair reporting of courts was the best safeguard of the rule of law and it would be wrong for the trial to "vanish for months behind a curtain of reporting restrictions". But he said he would keep the matter under review and if self-regulation did not preserve fairness, he would consider a ban again.

He added: "I will consider with counsel for the parties and the media the best mechanism for alerting the media to sensitive matters."

Mr Justice Henry said it was important that reports of the matter should make it clear that Mr Saunders's application was justified. He would not regard words such as "muzzle" fair in relation to the application for reporting restrictions.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, declined to comment as he left the court.

## PORTFOLIO

### Seven to receive share of £4,000 win

There were seven winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio competition.

Mrs Barbara King, of Worthing, West Sussex, said her children would be the main beneficiaries of her good fortune. "I have a daughter at university who always seems hard up and a son, aged 16, who is usually sceptical about the competition but will probably change his tune when I buy him some new cricket equipment."

Mr Robert Jones, of Nottingham, will use his winnings to pay off the interest on a professional studies loan he took out to finance a year at law school. "Training to be a solicitor is a long haul," he said. "But life is full of surprises, as I found out this morning."

Among the other winners, household repairs, in anticipation of the spring or as a result of storm damage, are the main priority.

Mr John Eberington of Hutton Henry, Cleveland, said it was "high time to stop the rot" in his conservatory.

Mrs Anne Preece of Bourneham, Dorset, whose home is still being battered by gales along the South coast, will replace the garden fence. "We also lost the TV aerial," she said.

They share the prize with Mr Edwin Crowe of Orpington, Kent, Mr Alan Hollingsworth of South Ascot, Berkshire, and Mr Kim Callaghan of Marton, Warwickshire. Each of the winners receives £571.40.

### Fewer fail drink-drive breath tests

A clear signal that police are not to be given stronger powers to curb drink-driving was given by the Government yesterday, as new evidence emerged that the problem is declining (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Home Office figures showed that the percentage of English and Welsh drivers failing tests in the first three quarters of 1989 fell to 21 per cent, 6 per cent lower than in the same period the year before.

Police also administered 15 per cent more tests after accidents but found that the proportion of failures fell by 5 per cent, against the same period in 1989. In all, 342,900 motorists were breath-tested.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, who has recently persuaded the Cabinet that police should not be empowered to breath-test at random, welcomed the figures and said that the drink-driving message was "getting across" to the public.

"The fact that the proportion of positive tests continues to fall shows that the police are making full use of the tough powers which they have to tackle drink-driving."

## Judge labels minister idiot over flower picking girl

By David Sapsed

A Crown Court judge yesterday branded Mr Timothy Eggar, Minister of State for Employment, "stupid, idiotic and provocative" for grabbing a girl aged six by the neck and taking her into his house after he had caught her picking flowers in his garden.

Judge McHale said at Croydon Crown Court that he sympathized with the annoyance felt by the child's father who, three days after the incident, went to the minister's house, head-butted him and punched him in the face.

Mr Eggar last night refused to comment on the criticism. "I was at Croydon Crown Court this morning ready and willing to give evidence. Because of the nature of the legal proceedings I was not able to explain to the court what actually happened," he said.

The father pleaded guilty to causing actual bodily harm and was given a 21-day prison sentence, suspended for a year. He was also ordered to pay £290 compensation to Mr Eggar, aged 38 and MP for Enfield North, for repairs to two broken crowned teeth and the replacement of his damaged clothes.

Mr Andrew Caldwell, for the defence, said the child had been held by the base of the neck by Mr Eggar and taken back to the house in Fentiman Road, Lambeth, south London. "She must have been very upset if not terrified," he said.

Judge McHale, who made an order preventing identification of the girl, said to the father: "I sympathize with you entirely in feeling irritation that your daughter had been interfered with in the way she was, and I should have thought that a grown man seeing a child stealing flowers would know better than to take a small girl into his house."

"It was stupid, idiotic and a provocative thing to do and

Mr Eggar should have known better. I can well understand that you were annoyed about that."

The court was told that the minister had seen the child and a friend taking flowers from his front garden last July and had followed them down the road.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the prosecution, said: "He took the two girls back to his home and endeavoured to explain to them that, whatever their motives, what they had done was wrong and he told them not to do that sort of thing again."

Three days later, the father went to Mr Eggar's house with his daughter. Mr Carter-Manning said. The minister tried to explain what he had done to the child, bending towards her to demonstrate, he said.

"Mr Eggar received a tremendous blow from the right. He reeled back and there was a struggle, and the father hit him on one or two more occasions, with Mr Eggar trying to restrain him by putting his arms around him."

The minister told police later he had tried to hit back but failed, counsel said, adding that both men fell to the ground in the scuffle.

The minister, a keen gardener, said later: "I am not going to be drawn into commenting on the judge's remarks. The man who assaulted me pleaded guilty, was convicted and was given a prison sentence. That is the end of the matter."

Mr Eggar was elected to Parliament in 1979. He was an under-secretary at the Foreign Office in 1985 before promotion to his present position last year. He is a former merchant banker and ex-chairman of Cambridge University Conservative Association. Apart from gardening he counts skiing among his interests.

## Blind girl's special meeting



Ashleigh Temperley, a blind girl aged six, hugging the Prime Minister as she overcame her stage fright during an awards ceremony for courageous children at the Guildhall in London yesterday (Libby Jukes writes).

Ashleigh, from Dunston, Tyne and Wear, had her eyes removed after treatment for a rare form of cancer failed. She was one of 150 children chosen to receive a McDonald's Child of Achievement award from thousands nominated by friends and youth groups throughout Britain.

Mr Paul Preston, British president of the company sponsoring the event, said the prizes were "a recognition of the positive side of youth, and of the children's ability to overcome adversity and enrich the lives of others by giving more than they take".

## Man awarded £40,050 after police assault

By Mark Souster

A pilot was awarded £40,050 damages against the Metropolitan Police yesterday after a High Court jury found that he had been framed and assaulted by officers.

Mr Leonard Lawrence received the damages for malicious prosecution and assault. It was the seventh time in a year that the Metropolitan Police has had to pay damages for wrongful arrest or malicious prosecution.

Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, chairman of the London group of Labour MPs, is to

raise the level of damages paid by the Metropolitan Police with Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, on March 6. He said: "There is considerable concern at the frequency of these cases, which are indicative of the fact there are still a number of bad apples in the Met who need cleaning out."

Mr Lawrence, aged 34, who now works for British Aerospace, won £25,000 in punitive damages, £15,000 in compensation and £50 for assault after a six-day hearing.

Lord Gifford, QC, for Mr Lawrence, told Mr Justice

Popperwell that the incident had shattered his client and turned him into "something of a recluse".

Mr Lawrence, of Hayes, Middlesex, had accused officers of sticking a tax disc from his Ferrari, which he had sold, on to the windscreen of his Ford Capri. The incident happened after eight officers burst into his aunt's hairdressing salon at Hammersmith, west London, where he was working as a heating engineer in February 1984. Mr Lawrence was knocked to the ground when PC Kenneth Dring's

elbow caught him in the face, the court was told. The officers left after he convinced them he was not a burglar. However, Mr Lawrence told them he would report their conduct.

They returned 10 minutes later and took him outside to his car, which had been locked. It had all its doors open and was being searched by a "whole squad of officers".

Its tax disc, which had been stuck to the windscreen with a letter explaining why it had expired, had disappeared. In its place was a tax disc which

had belonged to his Ferrari and had been lying on a shelf in the Capri. Mr Lawrence claimed the police planted the tax disc to head off his complaint against them.

Mr Lawrence was acquitted of the tax disc offence 15 months after being charged. He said yesterday: "I feel totally cleared."

The Metropolitan Police said it would appeal against the level of punitive damages. "The whole matter was fully investigated at the time and no further action will be taken," it said.

## Video-recorders spread to one household in two

By David Walker

One British family in two owns a video-recorder, according to the Central Statistical Office's latest Family Expenditure Survey.

If the rapid increase in homes with a video noted in 1987 and 1988 continues into the 1990s, such equipment may soon become as common a household item as freezers (owned by 75 per cent of families) or even telephones (installed in 85 per cent of homes). The number of videos rose 7 per cent during 1988, the latest year for which Family Expenditure data exists.

While televisions are a universal fixture (98 per cent of homes), substantial numbers of households (34 per cent) lack such accessories of

the good life as central heating. But not all consumer durables are increasing. The proportion of households with a computer was the same in 1988 as in 1987 — 17 per cent.

Telephone ownership is continuing to rise — from 83 per cent in 1987 to 85 per cent the year after. Similarly, car ownership rose by 3 per cent. However, some 34 per cent of homes are still carless.

The Family Expenditure Survey each year asks a 7,200-strong sample of households where they get their income and how they spend it.

In 1988 the average household spent £204 a week, up 8 per cent on the previous year in cash terms and 3 per cent in real terms. The average household comprises 2.52 people, so

spending per head was £81 a week. The biggest item in household budgets was food (19 per cent), followed by the expenses associated with renting and owning a home (17.5 per cent).

Heating and lighting cost 5 per cent of the average budget, and clothing 7 per cent. Spending on cars and transport was twice that on clothing at 15 per cent.

There are some notable differences between the regions. The people of East Anglia, for example, spent nearly 20 per cent of their household income on leisure goods and services while people in the West Midlands spent nearly half as much.

Spending on food was the largest item in most regions, but varied from nearly 21 per cent in Northern Ireland

and Wales to 17.5 per cent in the South-east.

The lowest weekly household spending was in the North (£164.38) and the highest in Greater London (£232.92). For households where the head is in a professional or managerial position, expenditure was £333. Blue-collar households spent £213.

The survey established beyond doubt how significant is the contribution made by married women who work outside the home. Where the wife worked, average income was £432 a week, with the wife contributing 27 per cent. Where the wife did not work, average income was £311, with the wife contributing 8 per cent.

Family Expenditure Survey 1988, (Stationery Office: £18).

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## Funds crisis 'has driven scientists from Britain'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

More than 1,600 British scientists working abroad have signed a petition delivered to Mrs Thatcher yesterday saying that inadequate funding for science was the main obstacle preventing their return.

Four of the signatories explained why they believe British science faces a crisis. They all spoke of better conditions abroad: better funding for equipment and long-term commitments, and higher academic salaries.

They estimate that at least an extra £400 million a year is needed to remedy the situation in the UK.

Professor Michael Duff, professor of physics at the Texas A & M University, spoke of Britain's lost generation of scientists between 25 to 40 years of age.

Professor Duff, aged 41, resigned posts at Imperial College, London, and the European Centre for Nuclear Research, in Geneva, in 1988. He said the brain drain was a very real and serious problem for British universities.

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for British science and ultimately for Britain as a whole.

"The decision to quit my position at Imperial College, to sell our home and move my family to a foreign country was not taken lightly," he said.

"It is a measure of the demoralization, frustration and anger I felt that the work to which I had devoted my career was not appreciated.

"This feeling of anger is one which I believe is shared by thousands of my fellow scientists throughout Britain.

"It has been brought about by the under-funding of scientific research, by the feeling that universities have been singled out for attack by the Government and by miserable academic salaries.

"Competent British academics can easily triple or quadruple their salaries by moving to the United States."

He said they would also be offered generous start-up funds by universities for their research and stand a much greater chance of obtaining government research grants.

"People like me who gave Dons call for reliable 'brain drain' figures

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Official figures on the so-called academic "brain drain" are so unreliable that they cannot prove that a problem actually exists, the Association of University Teachers (AUT) said yesterday.

Unless urgent action was taken, the universities would be powerless to counter government assertions that there was no convincing evidence to substantiate the "brain drain" claim, the union said.

Pronouncements have been based on the annual publication of the *Universities Statistical Record*, which collates figures supplied by the universities. Although the figures show a growing number of dons going abroad to work, only a minority of academics

up permanent jobs in the UK are really the tip of the iceberg as far as the brain drain is concerned," Professor Duff said.

"The majority of scientists leaving Britain are of a younger generation who were unable to obtain permanent posts in the first place."

When he resigned from Imperial College he was 39 years old. Professor Duff said he was the youngest of the nine members of staff in the theoretical physics group at the college.

But he said physicists in Britain typically got their PhDs aged 24; so where were all those between 24 and 39?

"The tragic answer is that a whole generation has been lost," he said.

Some left the academic world altogether, but many were forced to go abroad to fulfil their ambitions.

Dr Robert Bywater, head of molecular biophysics and drug design with Pharmacia, in Sweden, left Birkbeck College, London, in 1973.

He said his present research department had 20 British PhDs: 10 per cent of the top researchers; and he was constantly looking for more.

He said that in the 1960s Britain lost to the United States its three leading scientists in quantum chemistry because of lack of support for basic research in the UK.

Research laboratories in pharmaceuticals throughout the world now used daily the advances by those quantum chemists.

Dr Angus Lamond, group leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, obtained his PhD from Cambridge in 1984.

He spent three years at the Centre for Cancer Research, at MIT in the United States, "to get my BSc (been to America) degree" that was essential to get top jobs in Europe.

Dr David Norris, aged 31, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bremen, also in West Germany, said he was a member of the largest group, 31 per cent, who signed the petition.

Funds in Germany were better than those offered in Britain and he received twice the salary that had been offered earlier.

## Trainee pilots mark revolution in the air

By Peter Davenport

After the decision by the Royal Navy to allow women to serve on its warships on the high seas, it was the turn of the Royal Air Force yesterday. The first two women to begin training as jet aircraft pilots started their 10-month course alongside eight men at the No 1 Flying Training School, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, near York.

For Flight Lieutenants Sally Cox and Julie Gibson, both aged 27, it was the realization of an ambition. Although present policy means they will not be able to fly front line combat fighters, they are the pioneers of a programme that will change the face of the RAF.

The service, facing the same recruitment problems as the Navy and the Army, hopes women will make up at least 10 per cent of its annual intake of 230 trainee pilots.

Yesterday, professing concern at what the "chaps" might make of it all, the two women recruits met journalists, television crews and photographers. Dressed in their khaki flying suits, they patiently posed by one of the red and white Jet Provost training aircraft.

The first five weeks of the course are given over to basic classroom training followed by a rigorous survival and leadership test on the wild moors of the Otterburn military range in Northumberland. They will then make their first flight in the jet and go solo after eight to 12 hours of instruction.

If they are judged good enough, they graduate to fast jet training in Hawk aircraft at RAF Valley, Anglesey, and qualify as instructors to help train the fighter pilots of the



Flight Lieutenants Julie Gibson (left) and Sally Cox boarding a Provost aircraft at RAF Linton-on-Ouse yesterday.

future. Otherwise, they can act as instructors on the Jet Provost and Tucano aircraft or fly in a wide range of non-combat roles.

Both women have considerable private flying experience but until last July, when the RAF changed its policy to allow the training of female pilots, they held little hope

of being able to earn their wings.

Yesterday Lieutenant Cox, from Ipswich, who has been in the RAF for five years and served as a fighter controller in Cyprus, said: "My aim now is to fly the Hawk aircraft as an instructor. And although, given the option, I would like to go on to combat flying, it is

not something I am bitter or frustrated about."

Lieutenant Cox, whose husband is a RAF fighter controller, gained her private pilot's licence in 1984 and has flown 90 hours in Cessna and Robin aircraft.

Lieutenant Gibson, from Tavistock, Devon, is carrying on a long family tradition of

service. Her father was a submarine commander and her grandfather a brigadier in the Indian Army.

She has logged 70 hours of private flying and said that she had tried to enlist with air forces in the United States, Australia and Canada to defeat the "no-women" policy in Britain.

## Dead dogs poster campaign relaunched

By Ruth Gledhill

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals yesterday relaunched its controversial campaign for a national dog registration scheme, which led to one of its officials being banned from Cruft's dog show.

The society placed a poster showing a mountain of dead dogs near Ears Court Underground station, west London, next to the centre where the dog show opens today.

Posters bear the caption: "While the Government looks the other way another 350,000 dogs look like this."

Mr Gavin Grant, RSPCA director of public relations, was banned from Cruft's this year after he refused to remove similar posters from a stall at Cruft's last year.

He said: "The Government may be prepared to avert its gaze from the plight of dogs in this country but the RSPCA cannot. Last year 350,000 dogs had to be destroyed and the number of strays is at the unacceptable level of 500,000."

"We sought no confrontation with the Kennel Club. We just cannot turn away from the plight of dogs."

Major General Martin Sinnott, secretary of the Kennel Club, said the RSPCA had not applied for a stand at this year's show after Mr Grant was banned. He said: "We did not exclude them. They are running a publicity campaign. That is their business."

"We are running a dog show. That is our business."



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## Wife was depressed

Lady Helen Anne Nutting, wife of the former Conservative Minister of State for Foreign Affairs who resigned in 1956 over the handling of the Suez crisis, killed herself after suffering from depression for 12 years, Westminster Coroners' Court was told yesterday (Mark Souster writes).

Her husband, Sir Anthony Nutting, aged 70, said in written evidence that Lady Nutting, who died aged 60 on January 4 and who he had married in 1961, had been a little more agitated than usual on January 3. He had found her body in the garage of their home in Kensington, west London, with a suicide note. The coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, recorded a verdict that while suffering from depression she killed herself.

## Snapped up

A signed photograph of the former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu fetched 293 pounds at an auction in Nottingham. A signed photo of Ayatollah Khomeini made £1,210 and a letter signed by Hitler went for £600.

## Meter charge

A man aged 24 was remanded on bail until February 21 at Guildhall Justices' Rooms, London, accused of stealing 19 parking meters.

## Training ban

Race-horse training has been banned from the Caldbeck and Udale commons in the Lake District because of objections from local farmers.

## Export deal

Giacetta, of Scunthorpe, which produces only four hand-made sports cars a week, has agreed a £2.25 million export order with the Japanese.

## Airport action

An airport engineer has been suspended after driving across the path of a jet coming into land at Heathrow.

## Tourists drive

A record one million holiday-makers took their cars abroad last year, turning their backs on air travel, the AA reported.

## Hard worker

Mrs Barbara Mayers, aged 25, who works 140 hours a week at the hotel she part-owns in Torquay, Devon, was named Britain's Hardest Worker.

## Crash award

Paul Tamburello, aged 10, who saw four of his family killed in a crash, was awarded £10,233 High Court damages.

## Poor service

Six out of 10 consumers complained about shoddy goods and services last year, according to a Radio 4 poll.







## Zulu chief ready for immediate talks on ending apartheid

# Buthelezi fears rise in black-on-black violence

From R.W. Johnson  
Ulundi, KwaZulu

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the South African Zulu leader, yesterday declared himself ready for immediate negotiations with President de Klerk on ending apartheid.

But, in an interview with *The Times*, he said he feared that the violence in Natal between the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF) and his own Inkatha movement, which to date has cost some 3,000 lives, could get worse.

Black South Africans are only just beginning to confront the new political world opened to them by Mr de Klerk, and Chief Buthelezi's suggestion that negotiations could start immediately is calculated to embarrass the African National Congress and its local supporters.

The latter, accustomed to the politics of protest, have generally been thrown into confusion by the very idea of the politics of negotiation, despite such negotiations were what they have so long demanded.

Chief Buthelezi is bound to be a pivotal player in these negotiations — indeed, he was the only black leader besides Nelson Mandela, the jailed ANC leader, singled out for special mention by Mr de Klerk.

As I talked with Chief Buthelezi in his KwaZulu Cabinet office here, it became clear how important had been his experience with the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba, which had devised a multi-racial



Chief Buthelezi: He is regarded by the ANC as a collaborator with Pretoria.

When I asked the assembled KwaZulu Cabinet who they thought their allies in negotiation might be, a roar of laughter erupted — for that had been the subject of their Cabinet discussion that morning. There is no doubt, either, that their consideration of such matters is a long way ahead of other groups in its sophistication.

Thus while, Inkatha favours private enterprise and has an image of being

rather anti South Africa's Indian population, it believes it may, in certain circumstances, find allies among some Indian groups as well as among the far-left radicals of the Pan Africanist Congress, for all that the latter is trying to outflank the ANC by refusing altogether to negotiate with Pretoria.

Chief Buthelezi is a man of great charm and intelligence, but also a deeply hated man; the ANC not only regards him as a collaborator with Pretoria but holds him responsible for the bloody fighting between Inkatha and the UDF.

The fighting has achieved fresh intensity in recent months. House-burnings, necklacing (the murder of victims with a burning car tyre around the neck) and the sound of gunfire are common in many black Natal townships. On Tuesday night, I was told, heavier guns were heard for the first time. Those I spoke to laid the blame squarely on the UDF's "young comrades", but proof is hard to come by.

Chief Buthelezi himself angrily denies all responsibility for the violence, claiming, no doubt correctly, that much of it is committed by criminal elements beyond the control of either side.

"I pray only for the violence to stop," he told me. "We have opened fresh peace talks with the UDF, but I fear the violence is only going to get worse now that young ANC insurgents will be dribbling back from exile, bringing their AK-47s with them."

"They'll try to do what Swapo (the

South West Africa People's Organization) did last year and send their fighters streaming back, gun in hand. It's essential for everyone that this is not allowed to happen."

I put it to Chief Buthelezi that, while Inkatha may have held on to much of its power base as a result of the fighting, the price had been high not only in lives but in the tarnishing of its reputation both at home and abroad.

"We have certainly paid a high price," he said. "The great superiority of the ANC has lain in its international diplomatic effort, and they have got the foreign press to swallow their version of events. But when it comes to a question of survival, you simply have no choice. You protect your people, your base."

Chief Buthelezi felt that the Natal question was now fundamental to negotiations, for neither Inkatha nor the ANC would be keen to sit down with the other while the violence continued. It was, in any case, essential to establish peace so that proper elections could take place.

He believes that the ANC has departed from its historic tradition and come under communist influence largely because, in exile, it has been disembodied and out of touch with its grass roots. As it returns home it too will find that the question of power bases is fundamental.

In Mandela's decision to have a house built for himself in his native Transkei, Chief Buthelezi sees a clear sign that

Mandela hopes to consolidate his support there and thus become the only ANC leader with both a large rural and urban following.

Meanwhile, Chief Buthelezi has considerable sympathy with Mandela's dilemma: who could want to be made a virtual prisoner of one's ANC bodyguards the way that Mr Walter Sisulu and the other recently released black leaders had been?

Chief Buthelezi placed great hope on the possibility that he and Mandela, the leaders of the Zulu and Xhosa peoples

Pretoria (AFP) — Four black men were burnt to death when petrol bombs were thrown into a bus at Botshabelo township near Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State, police said yesterday. And in Natal, police said that a 15-month-old baby was burnt when a shack was set on fire at a settlement.

respectively, could achieve some rapprochement, but emphasized that a considerable gulf remained between them, as Mandela's recent endorsement of sweeping nationalisation and the armed struggle had shown.

I pointed out to Chief Buthelezi that the ANC would never accept the notion that he represented all Zulus and that, in the event of an ANC-Inkatha rapprochement, the ANC might demand the complete fusion of his organization with the ANC.

He replied that the negotiations would

be between parties, not language groups or homelands, but that it was folly to disregard the fact that he, as a member of the Zulu royal family, represented something real. Furthermore, fusion would never do.

"I don't believe in the politics of changes of heart — they're so fickle. In any case, I believe in democratic pluralism. It's best if people argue for their real interests. I don't want whites to think they have to throw their interests away to be our brothers — I want them to argue hard for white interests. And everybody else, too."

Of Mr de Klerk, Chief Buthelezi had nothing but good to say. "South Africa is lucky to have a man like him at this juncture. P.W. Botha (the former President) reached the crossroads and then just milled about at them."

"When I've met De Klerk what I really liked about the man was his honesty. There are a lot of Africans who would vote for De Klerk. Maybe — this with a laugh — "maybe more than would vote for me. At any rate, he's fulfilled all my conditions for negotiation and so I'm ready to negotiate now."

"If the ANC aren't ready, that's their problem. They chose the armed-struggle path and criticized people like me who stayed inside the country and organized. Well, now we've got our organization (Inkatha claims 1.2 million members) and I don't see why we should sit around waiting for them to get their act together."

## De Klerk faces conservative backlash

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

Mr Koos van der Merwe, the Chief Whip of the Conservative Party of South Africa, is a large, robust man with a neat, clipped moustache who presents himself as the urbane and acceptable face of Afrikaner nationalism.

His restraint deserted him on Tuesday, when he was ejected from Parliament for refusing to withdraw a remark that President de Klerk was a traitor. By yesterday, his composure had returned as he addressed foreign correspondents.

"First of all, I would like to inform you that I was released unconditionally last night. I am not out on parole, so I can speak to you as an unimpaired person." (Wit and irony are hallmarks of Mr Van der Merwe's style.)

The Conservative Party, he said, believed there was room for everybody in South Africa — provided they stayed in their own areas. The answer to the country's problems was a "just and equitable" division of the land into separate states, with an Afrikaner fatherland somewhere and homelands for the rest of the population somewhere else.

He painted a picture of a country littered with the graves of Afrikaner heroes who had died for their fatherland. "We only want that part of South Africa that is legally ours, which we have fought for, for which we have spilled our blood."

He had difficulty with the concept of non-racial democracy. "I do not know what non-racial means, because there are races. How can you say all of a sudden there are no races? It is stupid."

He said that Mr de Klerk and his National Party had deliberately "crooked" the white electorate by reneging on campaign pledges to reject dialogue with the African

National Congress (ANC) as long as it espoused violence. "That which is facing us, ladies and gentlemen, is nothing but black ANC communist domination in this country."

He said the Conservative Party would mobilize whites against the Government in a legal and non-violent manner and campaign for the support of one million voters. "Action One Million" would culminate in a mass rally in Pretoria on May 26, at which the masses would demand that the Government resign and face a general election.

If necessary, the party would stage protest marches and strikes which would cripple South African Airways, police, fire and hospital services, schools and buses.

In response to a question, he said: "My answer rings as follows: we reject violence as a method to accomplish political ends. But I must say that the Government is creating a climate, a mood, in which violence can become a possibility."

The right-wing spokesman is dismissed by his opponents as a political buffoon. However, the Conservative Party represents a large number of people. It emerged from the general elections last year as the official opposition in the white House of Assembly, polling 673,000 votes, or almost one-third of the total.

On its extremist fringes, there are men sworn to defend the Afrikaner cause with arms. Following a report in *The Times* about a potential threat

to Nelson Mandela's life, a senior National Party source admitted last night that the Government was terrified by the prospect.

Mandela might be permitted to recruit armed guards from ANC ranks, he said. "Providing they do it discreetly and don't go around flaunting weapons, we could possibly turn a blind eye to that. The priority is to keep him alive, whoever does it."

● Jackson arrival: The organizers of the highly-orchestrated protests against the South African cricket tour by Mike Gattling's team are hoping that the Rev Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights campaigner, will lead their march today (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Jackson, who arrived in South Africa yesterday, has not yet publicly responded to the protest invitation.

Yesterday the acting chief magistrate of Johannesburg banned today's planned demonstration at the Wanderers Ground, where Gattling's team and the South Africans begin a five-day "test match."

Mr Krish Naidoo, general secretary of the National Sports Congress, was adamant that anti-tour protests would continue.

Mr Jackson made it clear yesterday that what he hoped to do was to see Nelson Mandela "walk down the streets of Johannesburg while I am here". However, many observers feel the American's presence in South Africa is one of the factors delaying Mandela's release from jail.

Police blocked off access to Jan Smuts Airport near Johannesburg yesterday before Mr Jackson arrived. They said they were on the lookout for white right-wing extremists who have threatened to "take action" against Mr Jackson.

Parliament, page 10



The Rev Jesse Jackson, right, after arriving in South Africa, meets Mr Walter Sisulu of the ANC. He said he hoped to see Nelson Mandela 'walk down the streets of Johannesburg'.

## Victims of Beirut crossfire testify to the hatred

From Juan Carlos Gumucio  
Ashrafieh, east Beirut

He must have been in his early fifties, heavy and bald, and probably thought he had a chance. The man whose body lies sprawled in the emptiness of the Corniche Pierre Gemayel had tried to escape but there was nowhere to go.

He was cut down by machine-gun fire as the bullet holes in his white Mercedes testify so neatly. Nearby, two other corpses — one of a driver slumped over the wheel of a large American car — rot under the hazy sun.

They were civilians, also trapped in the crossfire. No-body knows when. If help was

ever on its way, it never arrived. A ceasefire of sorts — a 90-minute lull in the fighting between the Christian factions of General Michel Aoun and Mr Samir Geagea in east Beirut — yesterday allowed the evacuation of some of the most critically wounded civilians from the Hôtel Dieu hospital, a four-storey block full of wounded people, horror stories and tangible hatred.

In the main hall, Camille Saad, aged nine, sat on his bed speechless, an expression of utter disbelief in his dark eyes. He had just woken up to realize that his right arm was gone — amputated after a mortar round exploded inside his house in Jdeidi, blowing

off his hand. Wherever one looked in east Beirut yesterday, there was the familiar, frightening reminder that Lebanon's cruelty knows no limits.

Yet the same men who were firing the weapons were sharing the medicines, the water and the food with the 200 or so

innocent victims of their war. Wounded militiamen of Mr Geagea's Lebanese Forces were chanting "Aoun no good, Aoun will kill you," next to moaning old women who were afraid of dying for lack of adequate help.

"I am with Aoun," confided Martha, a nurse aged 27.

### British mother braves snipers

Ashrafieh — A British woman had a brush with death in Lebanon's inter-Christian civil war when the ambulance in which she was being driven to give birth at an east Beirut hospital was hit by sniper fire last night (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes). "I just prayed they would not hit me in the stomach," Mrs Sara Khouri, aged 27, from Shortlands, in Kent, told reporters at the Hôtel Dieu Hospital, where her son, Matthew, was born soon afterwards. Both are said to be in good condition.

"Look at them," she said pointing to a row of beds of wounded militiamen. "They have provoked the war. They are to be blamed for our tragedy."

The massive devastation of eight days' murderous battles between troops loyal to General Aoun and the militiamen is only one feature of the suicidal brutality of the country's latest conflict. So vicious is the eight-day-old war for control of the Christian enclave that virtually no building in east Beirut has been spared.

"General Aoun has given us a choice," said Ennad, aged 20, a computer science student who emerged from his shelter

to buy bread from a van doing probably the most dangerous commercial round in Lebanon. "To die or to die."

"We only have to decide how. If you go out in the street, it will be a sniper. If you stay in your house it will be a shell. And your family will never know who did it."

With shots whizzing overhead, M Bernard Kouchner, the French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, led a convoy of eight Lebanese Red Cross ambulances to rescue the 12 most critically injured civilians to send them to hospitals in France — the youngest an eight-month-old boy with a 1½ins shrapnel wound in the head.

## Trial by television brings US child abuse case back to court

From Ivar Davis  
Los Angeles

An unprecedented campaign by parents who claim their children were molested at a California nursery school has breathed new life into what are already the longest and most costly legal proceedings in American history.

Three weeks after a trial lasting 2½ years, in which Mr Raymundo Buckley and his mother, Mrs Peggy McMurtin Buckley, were acquitted of molesting pupils at their Manhattan Beach nursery school, Ira Reiner, the Los Angeles District Attorney, has said he plans to retry Mr Buckley on the 13 charges of molestation and conspiracy on which the original jury could not reach a verdict.

The move comes after the decision of the youngsters' parents to

go over the heads of the legal authorities and the jury and take their case directly to the public.

As soon as the verdicts had been handed down in mid-January, the parents held press conferences, organized letter-writing campaigns to politicians, and bombarded the radio and television airwaves, becoming a staple on all the coast-to-coast chat shows, where their hosts made little pretence at objectivity, roundly denouncing the verdict as a travesty of justice.

Howard Rosenberg, the Pulitzer Prize-winning television critic of *The Los Angeles Times*, called it "retail by TV talk show."

In an atmosphere of vigilantism, he accused the media and the children's parents of ignoring due process of law and the jury system, bypassing the principle of "one's

day in court" and manipulating the media in a perversion of justice.

Indeed, the spectacle of Judge William Pounders doing the talk-show rounds was hard to swallow, as was the sight of a young student from the school looking straight

● I thought that once you were found not guilty, the charges were dropped ●

into the camera on one such epic and saying: "We were molested, and that's an honest to God fact."

Oprah Winfrey, America's most popular talk-show host, told a studio audience packed with McMurtin parents and supporters

that she would not have made a good juror. "I would have said: 'The children said it, so all right... you're right.'"

Another show flashed the address of the Los Angeles District Attorney and the judge on screen so that viewers could write to them to urge a retrial on the 13 counts.

Whatever the implications of such tactics, they worked. Mr Reiner, a canny politician who is seeking the office of Attorney General of California and who has been heavily criticized for his handling of the case, announced that he was going ahead with a second prosecution for four main reasons.

These were: the seriousness of the alleged offences; the commitment of the families involved; his own feeling that there had to be a

complete resolution of the case for the sake of both sides; and the judge's assessment that, given the evidence, the verdict could have gone either way.

Response to Mr Reiner's announcement was swift. Mr Danny Davis, Mr Buckley's defence attorney, filed a motion to disqualify Judge Pounders because of bias.

Mr Davis claims Judge Pounders cut short defence arguments and made public statements which showed he believed in Mr Buckley's guilt. Judge Pounders is challenging the motion.

Miss Lael Rubin, a Deputy District Attorney, who was on the original prosecution team, said the decision to proceed once more against Mr Buckley had been taken only after much soul-searching, long discussions with the families

of the children, and three lengthy meetings with Mr Reiner.

She added that three of the five children involved with the remaining 13 counts were expected to testify, including one girl who had refused to do so in the original trial.

Jurors who had given up more than two years to decide the fate of Mr Buckley and his mother were shocked by the announcement. They expressed doubts that an unbiased jury could be found for the new proceedings anywhere in Los Angeles County, given the publicity.

"Everyone is hysterical and no one is dealing with this rationally," Miss Brenda Williams, one of the jurors, said. "I thought once you were found not guilty of charges, that the charges were dropped. But no one seems willing to drop this."



Mr Buckley: Faces new trial after parents' outcry.

### WORLD ROUNDUP

## Karachi clashes leave 28 dead

Karachi — An indefinite curfew was imposed and the Pakistani Army took control of several districts of Karachi after at least 28 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in clashes between supporters of the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement and the security forces (Zahid Hussain writes). One soldier and four policemen were killed.

For the past week, the city has been plunged into violence as supporters of the ruling Pakistan People's Party and the Mohajir movement, which represents post-independence immigrants from India and their descendants, fought gun battles in the streets. Mobs attacked troops and police and 115 people were arrested. Earlier, a strike called by the Mohajirs had virtually paralyzed Karachi. Mr Altaf Hussain, the Mohajir leader, claimed the People's Party had kidnapped and tortured 100 of his party's men.

## Oil protection strategy

Washington — The Pentagon, in its latest reassessment of defence priorities in Eastern Europe, has concluded that US military strategy in the Gulf should concentrate on protecting oil supplies and discount a Soviet threat to Iran (Susan Elliott writes). In a classified report on military planning, the Defence Department has instructed the military to abandon a plan which would have involved a mission to defend Iran because of a perceived reduction in the Moscow threat. The document, which provides regional military commanders with an idea of the Pentagon's intended policies for 1992-97, also suggested that the US military might have to give up its bases in the Philippines and set up new ones in Asia.

## Japan poll ignored

Tokyo — Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats have shrugged aside an opinion poll suggesting they could find it difficult to win a majority in the general elections later this month (Joe Joseph writes). Although a survey of 130 constituencies carried out by the *Mainichi* newspaper predicted that the party could have a tough fight to win the 257 seats it needs for a majority in the 512-seat Lower House, its leaders are already choosing the next Prime Minister and parcelling out the post-election jobs. The party has resigned itself to losing several of its 295 seats in the February 18 poll. But it is confident that, even if it fails to reach the 257-seat target, there will be enough pro-LDP MPs among the 170 independent candidates to assure it of control.

## US stance attacked

A bitter attack on the United States Government's "excessively conciliatory" policy towards China since the Tiananmen Square massacre, accusing it of "outright hypocrisy", is published today by the Asia Watch Committee, an American human rights organization (Andrew McEwen writes). The report dismisses Peking's recent decision to lift martial law as little more than a public relations exercise. Hopes of human rights improvements in China soon are "entirely unsupported by the facts", with between 10,000 and 30,000 people still behind bars, it says.

## Aids spreads in China

Peking (Reuters) — China says Aids is "spreading fast" among its 1.1 billion people, and that 153 Chinese had caught the disease — compared to just six cases previously reported. State radio yesterday quoted Mr Dai Zhi Cheng, a senior health ministry official, as saying: "Our abilities to control this disease are limited and we do not have the whole situation in hand." The New China News Agency said the increase came to light after an inspection among drug addicts in China's south-western border region revealed that 146 people were infected.

## Italy relents on exiles

Rome — The bodies of two exiled Italian kings and a queen will be brought home and buried in Rome's Pantheon, traditional resting place of the Savoia family (Paul Bompard writes). Under the new concordat signed recently between Italy and the Vatican, the Pantheon no longer has political significance. The bodies to be moved are those of King Vittorio Emanuele III (1869-1947), now buried in Egypt; King Umberto II (1904-1983), buried in France; and Queen Elena, wife of Vittorio Emanuele, also buried in France.



# UK hails Moscow plenum outcome as 'historic step'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, and Daniel Treisman

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday hailed the outcome of the historic Soviet Central Committee plenum in Moscow as a great decision.

A government statement described it as "an historic step" and said Britain respected President Gorbachev's clarity of vision.

Mrs Thatcher last night became the first Western leader to receive a first-hand account of the plenum when one of those present, Mr Vadim Medvedev, the Communist Party's ideology chief, arrived to see her at Downing Street within hours of its conclusion.

She said afterwards that the Soviet Union had changed "further than we could ever have thought five years ago". There was still a great deal to be done, but the ending of the Communist Party's monopoly of power was "a great decision".

Mrs Thatcher had said Mr Medvedev had come "hot-foot" from the session. "We were waiting this morning for the result of the plenum and were very pleased indeed that it went well."

Mr Medvedev, flying to Britain as the head of a delegation of Soviet deputies, was given red-carpet treatment at Downing Street. He said the situation was now clearer for the party congress, to be held in the autumn. "We are into the home stretch for the congress, and the congress itself will make a radical turn."

He described the decision to adopt multi-party democracy as a real genuine political process in play. The Communist Party will use democratic and political methods to campaign for the mandate of the people... to be the ruling party and govern the country and lead it forward."

Mr Medvedev had said on his arrival at Heathrow airport that the Central Committee vote to back Mr Gorbachev's proposals for change was "opening up a new page in perestroika" and had demonstrated the Communists' vigorous commitment to reform. He declared that "the result of the vote - the fact that it has been almost unanimous - testifies, I think, to the fact

that the party and its leading body, the Central Committee, are full of vigour and want to promote perestroika and deepen it".

Mr Medvedev appeared eager to present an image of the party rallying round after the soul-searching and tongue-lashing of the plenum. He said the vote had been preceded by a very intense discussion in which more than 60 speakers took part, and the draft document followed much work by the special commission, set up at the start of the plenum.

He said: "Probably it's a little premature to say anything concrete at this point, but I'm quite sure that, having analysed the document adopted by the plenary session, you will see for yourself that it

really opens up a new page in perestroika."

Mr Medvedev was welcomed at the airport by Mr Michael Marshall MP, the chairman of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which invited the Soviet delegation, along with Sir Rodric Braithwaite, the British Ambassador, to Moscow, and Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador to London.

The delegation, including Soviet officials and members of the Supreme Soviet, will meet Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, during its week-long stay in Britain. Mr Medvedev will also call on Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour

leader, and all will participate in discussions with British parliamentarians.

Mr Medvedev, made a full member of the Politburo and appointed chairman of the Central Committee ideological commission in September 1988, is considered the most economically literate member of the Politburo. A former Leningrad academic who later joined the party apparatus, he has written several books on economic theory.

He is thought to be a close adviser to President Gorbachev and has supported his reforms, though his reluctance to see the work of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn published in the Soviet Union singled him out in some eyes as conservative.

Yesterday, he appeared reassured by the Central Committee's support for Mr Gorbachev, after he himself had warned the plenum on Tuesday that the very survival of the party was at stake.

He said: "Either we prove able to lead a rapid but controlled process of transformation, or it will become an uncontrolled deluge and fall under the influence of populist demagogues or even fanatical leaders of pogroms."

In an interview in Moscow before he left, Mr Medvedev had taken issue with the contention by some speakers that many of the Soviet Union's political and economic problems were the fault of perestroika.

"In my view, the difficulties we are encountering have been inherited from the past. Perestroika has just uncovered them," he said.

Mr Medvedev said the "dominating opinion" at the plenum was for direct elections of delegates to the next party congress in some form. But the exact methods had to be decided when the party's statutes were recast over the next few weeks.

Mr Medvedev's side, Mr Leonid Dobrokhotov, said he thought it unlikely that big personnel changes would emerge from the plenum. "In the course of elections for the coming party congress and at the congress itself for the new leadership bodies, the old branches are likely to fall away naturally."

## The key to party's hold on power

Article 6 is part of the Soviet constitution adopted on October 7, 1977, by a special session of the Supreme Soviet under the leadership of Leonid Brezhnev.

It has been interpreted as ruling out the creation of competing political parties in the Soviet Union.

The Article says: "The leading and guiding force of Soviet society and the nucleus of its political system, of all state organizations and public organizations, is the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The CPSU exists for the people and serves the people."

"The Communist Party, armed with Marxism-Leninism, determines the general perspectives of the development of society and the course of the home and foreign policy of the USSR, directs the great constructive work of the Soviet people, and imparts a planned, systematic and theoretically substantiated character to their struggle for the victory of communism."

"All party organizations shall function within the framework of the Constitution of the USSR."

## Baker flies in for Kremlin talks on arms



Looking optimistic: Mr Baker, right, being greeted yesterday by Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, at Moscow airport.

## Superpowers hope for progress on pacts

Moscow (Reuters) - Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, arrived here yesterday for key talks on disarmament.

Mr Baker arrived just as the Soviet Central Committee approved the programme drafted by Mr Gorbachev that would do away with the party's constitutional grip on power and pave the way to a multi-party system.

The Secretary of State headed straight into informal talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister. He is also due to see President Gorbachev and address the foreign affairs commission of the Supreme Soviet.

One of the thorniest issues will be the future of East and West Germany, which appear to be heading inexorably towards reunification. Mr Gorbachev said last week that reunification was bound to

happen, but should be carefully prepared. Other Soviet officials have said the new Germany should be neutral, but the US has rejected this.

In Moscow, a prominent Soviet political commentator warned the US against taking advantage of the Kremlin's troubles at home and in Eastern Europe during Mr Baker's visit.

"The temptation is great," Mr Aleksandr Bovin wrote in *Izvestia*. "But the slightest insincerity or attempt to outwit the other partner could tear asunder the delicate thread of trust which has already, with mutual advantage, been stretched between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Mr Bovin also suggested the Soviet Union might want to drop its objections that President Bush's new proposal for cutting US and Soviet troop

levels in Europe would leave the Americans with 30,000 soldiers more than Moscow.

"If the Americans think that this addition guarantees them and their allies full security, maybe it's not worth arguing with them," he said.

In his State of the Union address on January 31, Mr Bush proposed each side reduce troop levels in central Europe to 195,000, a cut of about 65,000 for the US and about 370,000 for Moscow.

On strategic arms, the main obstacles in the treaty being worked out by negotiators in Geneva concern how to limit sea-launched cruise missiles, and how to count air-launched missiles. Other problems involve how to tackle non-deployed "spare" missiles, and what access to give the other side to results of missile flight tests. The two sides have already agreed on a limit of

6,000 warheads on a total of 1,600 strategic missiles and long-range bombers apiece.

PRAGUE: Mr Baker unveiled the new US strategy to aid Eastern Europe's emerging democracies in a speech yesterday at Charles University here (Peter Green writes).

He suggested to students whose peaceful protests had sparked the Czechoslovak "velvet revolution", that the East bloc should help itself first, but offered US support for free elections and economic co-operation and insisted the American military still had a place in Europe.

Mr Baker outlined a four-point approach: to helping Eastern Europe: assuring free elections; defining a new military relationship in Europe; rebuilding the region's shattered economies; and encouraging new political and economic co-operation.

## Full truth of Stalin's famine to be disclosed

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet authorities have ordered publication of full details of a disaster they have tried to hush up for more than 50 years - the Ukrainian famine of 1932-1933 in which Western historians believe five million people died.

A resolution of the Ukrainian Communist Party, reported yesterday by Tass, declared the famine a "national tragedy" and blamed it on Stalin and his "criminal" policies of forcible collectivization.

It ordered the party's official historical institute to publish articles this year on the famine together with archive material which it had discovered. The archives, the resolution said, "give a tragic picture of mass fatalities from hunger and disease, especially from March 1933 onwards." It gave no precise figures, but

Robert Conquest, the British historian, in his book, *The Harvest of Sorrow*, puts the death toll from the famine at five million and the total toll from Stalin's agricultural policies in the 1930s at 14.5 million.

Eyewitness accounts published recently in the Soviet Union speak of cannibalism in some rural areas.

The disaster had not been officially mentioned in the Soviet Union until the past three years, when President Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost* began to take hold. In 1987, Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, then leader of the Ukrainian Communist Party, admitted there had been famine in some areas and criticized the agricultural policies of the time.

The Ukrainian party resolution, however, is believed to be the first

time that a full public exposé has been ordered. It conceded that "for more than half a century this theme was hushed up in national historiography, which hindered scientific understanding and an objective moral and political assessment of a national tragedy". The party concurred with Western historians in blaming the famine on enforced collectivization, which meant abolition of private land-owning, and "dekulakization" - in effect the dispossession and deporting of millions of kulaks (peasant farmers).

When grain output fell as a result, the resolution acknowledged, the Stalinist leadership raised the quotas of grain which farms were obliged to deliver to the state.

When this failed, thousands of

people were arrested for "connivance in kulak sabotage" and farmers had seeds, animal fodder and food supplies taken away "which proved fatal for the population," it said.

The party declared that the famine was "the consequence of the criminal course of Stalin and his immediate entourage... towards the peasantry". In addition to Stalin it named Vyacheslav Molotov, his Prime Minister, and Mr Lazar Kaganovich, the Politburo member in charge of collectivization, as well as Stanislav Kosior and Vlas Chubar, the Ukrainian Communist leaders.

Kosior and Chubar were both shot in 1939 in one of Stalin's purges, but Molotov died only four years ago and Mr Kaganovich is believed still alive, aged 96.

### A model for Gorbachev

## Lithuania shows way forward

From Bill Keller, Vilnius, Lithuania

Under the direction of Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, its First Secretary, the Communist Party of the Baltic republic of Lithuania has declared its independence from Moscow, accepted the competition of rival political parties, purged much of its old guard, and adopted a platform that pays scant homage to Marx and Lenin.

For party leaders in Moscow now contemplating the prospect of political pluralism, the Lithuanian experience suggests that the Communist Party can recover a measure of its dwindling authority, but only by transforming itself beyond recognition and confronting the real possibility of life as a minority.

Mr Brazauskas, aged 57, contends that this humbling transformation is worth it, considering the alternatives offered by Romania and Soviet Azerbaijan, where rigid resistance led to bloody confrontation.

"The party can't live for itself like it was in Romania, where the party was something untouchable, beyond criticism, always right, which never made a mistake," he said.

"Either the party has radically to change itself to get closer to the people, or it must liquidate itself."

The outcome of Mr Brazauskas's approach is that he is perhaps the only senior Communist Party official in Eastern Europe who consistently wins popularity polls, outscoring every prominent independent political figure in Lithuania. And some of the lustre is rubbing off on his party.

The most startling evidence came in an opinion poll in

early January, shortly after the Lithuanian party formally broke with the Moscow party and approved a programme embracing Lithuanian independence, political pluralism and the free market.

The survey, by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, found that the party had a 73 per cent positive rating, ahead of the independent Sajudis movement. In a similar poll in November, the Communists had only 16 per cent of popular support.

Despite this sudden improvement in popularity, however, party officials concede that there is a good chance that, after the elections for a Lithuanian Parliament on February 24, the party will become a junior partner in a coalition government dominated by the recently legalized opposition parties and independent candidates.

Although he is campaigning fiercely to prevent it, Mr Brazauskas says he is prepared to live with defeat. He believes there will in any event be fewer Communists in the new Parliament, "but they will be better Communists."

When Mr Brazauskas took over as leader of the Lithuanian party in 1988, he was in a position not unlike that in which President Gorbachev today finds himself. He was perceived as a cautious reformer whose party was rapidly losing influence to political "insurgents" united under the Sajudis banner.

In December the Lithuanian party openly defied an angry Kremlin and proclaimed itself autonomous, adopting a programme that is almost indistinguishable from the platform of the recently

legalized Lithuanian Democratic Party.

Unlike the Soviet Communist Party, the Lithuanian party welcomes religious believers as members. It also endorses free markets, including private ownership of industry and farmland, and shuns "democratic centralism".

It advocates complete political independence for Lithuania, although Mr Brazauskas calls for a careful transition period and for

Prague (Reuters) - A powerful explosion ripped through a Soviet military area in south-eastern Czechoslovakia on Tuesday, sending a mushroom-shaped cloud into the sky. Czechoslovak radio reported. The Defence Ministry said Soviet troops had blown up an ammunition dump in violation of "all regulations". An analysis of the ash showed that it did not contain harmful chemicals, the radio report said.

maintaining loose ties with Moscow, roughly analogous to the ties binding the members of the European Community.

To the astonishment of many Lithuanians, four Sajudis leaders were recently inducted into the party's 19-member leadership, where they form an unhindered lobby for secession from the Soviet Union. "Brazauskas sincerely agonizes over this issue," Mr Romualdas Ozolas, one of the Sajudis Communists, said.

Not surprisingly, Mr Brazauskas is shunned by Com-

## Sakharov's brain under microscope

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The brain of the late Dr Andrei Sakharov, Nobel prize-winner and human rights campaigner, has been sent to the Soviet Academy of Neurological Institute to assist in a study of how outstanding individuals think and behave, the Soviet newspaper *Trud* reports.

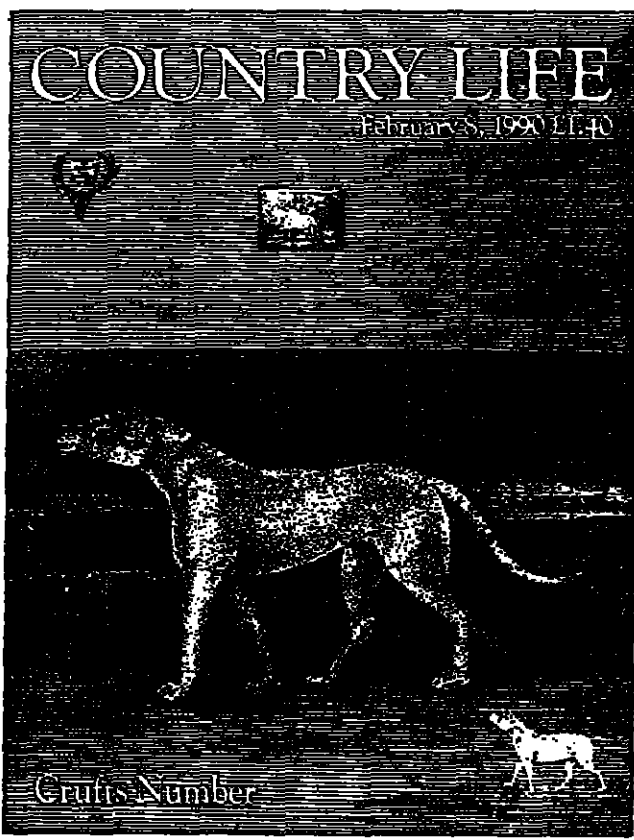
Dr Sakharov's brain joins those of Lenin, Stalin and other public figures in a Soviet research project which was started after Lenin's death from a brain tumour in 1924. Sakharov, the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was eulogized as the conscience of the country when he died in December, aged 68.

According to the institute's director, Professor Oleg Adrianov, researchers have formulated a theory relating brain characteristics to an individual's physical and psychological make-up. He said that the institute had not received any politicians' brains since Stalin's time, but he expressed the hope that the results of the project, which were at present secret, would eventually be made public.

The institute's more general research was to prove that brains vary so much within ethnic groups that "there is no question of any special faculties of the brain of members of different races", Professor Adrianov said.

The Nazis, who sent Jews, Gypsies and members of other races they alleged were inferior to death camps during the Second World War, maintained that the human brain exhibited racial differences. They used the thesis to support their theory of a master race.

## Crufts Number



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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# East German SPD poised for victory in elections

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

The Social Democrats in East Germany are heading for an overall majority in the country's first free elections next month, according to an opinion poll published here yesterday.

The poll, conducted by the Leipzig Institute of Youth Affairs, found that 54 per cent of those interviewed nationwide would vote for the party if elections were held now. A surprising 12 per cent said that they would vote for the reformed communist party.

With the Social Democrats clearly ahead in the election campaign, three left-wing organizations, New Forum, Democracy Now and the Initiative for Peace and Human Rights, yesterday formed an electoral alliance following the decision by the country's centre-right parties to build the Alliance for Germany this week.

The new left-wing grouping, whose three members have resisted transforming from broadly based pressure groups into political parties, represent a gradual reunification programme. They reject Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister's vision of a neutral Germany.

"Our aim will be a demilitarized Germany and the transformation of Nato and the Warsaw Pact into political blocks," said Herr Konrad Weiss of Democracy Now

yesterday. He said that the alliance intended to form a coalition with the Social Democrats after the election. But the Social Democrats, aiming convincingly for an overall majority, are showing little interest in the new alliance. "There is no point in talking about a coalition as we intend to hold power alone," said Herr Stefan Reiche, a spokesman.

Inspired and funded by its sister party in West Germany, it is the only opposition party strong enough to run alone as the political stage in East Germany becomes dominated by coalitions.

Like its West German counterpart, the party is hedging its bets on the subject of a future neutral Germany.

Herr Ibrahim Bohne, the party leader, denies that his party would pursue neutrality after the election, preferring to press home the importance of German unity proceeding at the same pace as the dissolution of the military pacts.

Privately, however, Social Democrats say they can envisage Nato membership as long as this is combined with the withdrawal of foreign troops from German soil.

All parties now support currency union with the Deutschmark to save the shattered economy, and unification with subtle differences in the time scale envisaged.

# Bucharest sheds 'classical peasant' image

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest



Bemused expressions greeting a model in a sun dress at Romania's first free fashion show.

Romanians have been flocking in their thousands to the first public fashion show permitted in 24 years — a colourful and noisy spectacle treated as a celebration of the end of the domination of social life by Elena Ceausescu, the hated wife of the former Communist dictator.

The proceedings, in Bucharest's National Theatre, opened dramatically with a stylish young model holding flickering candles in memory of the dead of December, while amplified recordings of the gun battles filled the darkened auditorium. All admission fees are being given to the victims' families.

Miss Florica Banescu, the country's top designer, said: "Under the orders of Elena Ceausescu, the only fashion shows were for visiting diplomatic delegations and they were always run to her strict rules. Everything had to be tailored to her bad and unadventurous taste: I would call it 'classical peasant'."

The problems faced by Romania's handful of designers, who had to cope with shortages of material and a ban on the import of all Western fashion magazines (scores of which have subsequently been discovered in the Ceausescus' various villas), were matched by those of the models.

Miss Ligia Jorca, who at 37 has returned to the catwalk after retiring to a job as a bank teller, said: "The rules were so ridiculous as to make the job almost impossible. For a start, we were not allowed to wear any make-up. Our hair had to be tied into a bun like Elena's and we were not even allowed to move; we had to stand perfectly still."

As with the female announcers on Romanian television, one of the main difficulties with which Roma-

nia's fashion models had to cope was Elena Ceausescu's fanatical jealousy. Miss Sabina Draganesco, another of the models in the show, said: "If she found any of the models too attractive, there would be a message sent to the show's organizer saying that 'so and so's face' did not suit the clothes, and she was automatically sacked."

Despite these drawbacks, the hour-long show is presented with a panache that often reaches international standards. The loudest applause is reserved for bold mini-skirts cut four or five inches above the knee, and daring backless creations of the type outlawed by the conservative Mrs Ceausescu.

Miss Banescu, whose flair has begun attracting the attention of Western fashion buyers, said: "Everyone had to be covered up as much as possible. We could never introduce new styles from abroad on the rare occasions we presented our fashions at home; we could only sneak them in during the few shows we were permitted to stage in foreign countries."

Miss Banescu, against a background of previously banned Western pop music, said: "We have had to put this collection together very quickly so there is still a Soviet influence to the designs; that will disappear by the time our next show is staged."

She appeared to be overwhelmed by the reaction of the audience, who packed the sides and were even seated on the edge of the stage.

"Before the revolution we could not even use any colours together that might depict the national flag of a foreign country," she said.

"Now we are free to do what we like. We will be working hard to catch up with all the styles from Europe."

# French get back the mini-skirt couturier

Paris (Reuter) — A group of French investors have bought back, from its Japanese owners, a controlling 50 per cent share of the Courreges fashion house, which introduced the mini-skirt in the 1960s.

The French group has an option of increasing its stake to 74 per cent. The Japanese clothing giant, Tokin, took control of Courreges in 1983 when it was facing severe financial problems.

# Bridge work

Hong Kong (Reuter) — Hong Kong is to build one of the world's longest suspension bridges — with a central span of 4,635 ft — as part of a \$9.5 billion project to develop an international airport on an outlying island, the colony's government announced.

# Cyclone chaos

Auckland (Reuter) — Three people died and 10,000 people were made homeless on the South Pacific island of Western Samoa after Cyclone Ofa left shortages of food, water and medical supplies.

# Choked tunnel

Chamonix (Reuter) — French police reported that 2,000 lorries were stranded by a pay strike of Italian customs officers which closed the Mont Blanc tunnel.

# Slavers caught

Peking (Reuter) — Sixty-five people have been sentenced to death in Anhui province for selling women and children into slavery, the People's Daily reported.

# Ethiopia battle

Addis Ababa (Reuter) — The Ethiopian Government said it recaptured the strategic point of Kimer Dingay in the northern province of Gondar.

# London summit

# Thatcher aims to put a brake on moves to unity

By Sheila Guna, Political Reporter

Mrs Thatcher will seek to slow down the rapid moves towards German unity when she meets Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, in London next month.

The Anglo-German summit between key ministers at Number 10 Downing Street is expected to be held soon after the East German elections on March 18.

The timing is crucial as the establishment of East Germany's first democratically elected Government is likely to prompt fresh demands within the two Germanies for reunification.

It emerged yesterday that Mrs Thatcher hopes to use the summit as a means of urging a more cautious, controlled transition towards unity.

Although government sources insist it will be the traditional, wide-ranging annual summit between the two Western powers, they admit that it will inevitably be dominated by the issue of

German unity. The summit plans were disclosed as Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, appeared to distance himself from the Prime Minister and Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, yesterday by taking a more positive stance towards reunification.

On his return from his visit to West Germany, he expressed confidence in the ability of Herr Kohl to handle the issue sensitively.

He said the way in which the West German chancellor had "shown understanding of the kind of anxieties which are natural arising out of history" was striking.

Giving evidence to the Commons committee on foreign affairs, he evinced none of the unease expressed by Mrs Thatcher and Mr King at the speed of moves towards German unity.

Mr Hurd also predicted that East Germany would move quickly towards a free market

economy without attempting to set up a "halfway house" in order to effect a more gradual transition. He warned that the perilous state of East Germany's economy had not yet been fully grasped.

Members of the Conservative-dominated committee criticized the Government for responding too slowly to moves towards German reunification.

Two former Ministers, Mr David Howell, the committee chairman, and Mr Ted Rowlands, said that the Government appeared to be "underestimating" the speed and pressure for unity. Mr Rowlands said: "We should not continue to nitpick, but look at the enormous consequences of reunification."

However, Mr Hurd dismissed the idea of East Germany's early membership of the European Community as priority should be given to the long-standing applications of Austria and Turkey.

# Bonn outpaces French in battle for new business

From Alan Wheatley, Paris

Officially, France sees upheaval in Eastern Europe as a great commercial opportunity. Unofficially, age-old fears of German economic domination have resurfaced, and the French fear that, in the end, they may be big losers.

Not only are French companies dragging their feet in the great rush East, but the prospect of a West German economic boom points to a widening growth gap with France and an even greater role for the Deutschmark within the EC's European Monetary System.

"The events in the East will reinforce the polarization of the EMS around the mark," M Christian de Boissieu, a professor at the University of Paris, told a conference here this week on the economic impact of the political upheaval in the East Bloc.

To dilute growing German influence, France should push for quicker implementation of the Delors report on European economic and monetary union, he suggested. "It's the only way for France to live with this asymmetry."

M Jean-Paul Fitoussi of the Observatoire Economique des Conjonctures, an independent research group, has tried to quantify how much West Germany stands to gain. East Bloc changes were likely to boost West Germany's GNP by 3.5 percentage points by 1993, while the rest of the EC would grow by only an extra 1.5, he told the conference.

M Pierre Berégovoy, the French Finance Minister, says

he is not worried by the growing momentum for German monetary union, which he describes as inevitable. But he said earlier this week that he expected to be consulted by Bonn on its offer to hold immediate talks on monetary union. "I am waiting for explanations from the West German Government," he said.

For reasons of history, geography and industrial strength, France is not as well placed as West Germany for the race

# Nuclear fears

Bonn — Herr Klaus Töpfer, the West German Environment Minister, yesterday promised a quick decision on whether East Germany's largest nuclear power station, built to an obsolete Soviet design, should be shut down on safety grounds (Ian Murray writes). Experts are calling the plant at Lubmin, 100 miles north of Berlin, the "Chernobyl of the north". East Berlin is letting Bonn decide, ahead of reunification.

East French exports to centrally planned economies have been running at about three billion francs (£300 million) a month — around three per cent of total exports.

M Raymond Courbis, the director of Gama, an economic research firm, said France was unable to capitalize fully on bigger market opportunities because its industry was running flat out already. "The impact on the

French economy will be limited because of capacity constraints," he said.

Nor are French companies rushing into joint ventures or massive direct investment in Eastern Europe. Among the best publicized deals, the state-owned computer group, Compagnie des Machines Bull, is investing 600 million francs (£60 million) in Hungary; the construction giant, Bouygues, is building a hospital near Moscow; and the hotel group, Accor, is venturing into the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary.

But French plans pale beside those of West German firms, which have announced plans to pour billions of marks into East Germany and other East European economies.

French food industry executives are not licking their lips either, even though East European consumers have been starved of the sort of fine food for which France is famous.

M Lionel Zinzou-Dertin, director of strategy and development at the food conglomerate, BSN, said his company was exploring opportunities in Eastern Europe, especially East Germany. But he saw a host of barriers to overcome — lack of skilled labour, poor distribution networks, an irrational price system and the risk that latent hyper-inflation may spark social unrest.

In many ways, he told the conference, the economies of Eastern Europe were like those of developing countries and faced a long haul to prosperity. (Reuter)

# Help at hand for double and triple trouble



The Constant Mourning of Britain meeting some of the twin, triplet and quadruplet babies at its special nursery in South for a few hours for the Multiple Births Foundation. Britain's only professional support group for families with twins and higher-order births. They are in the company of the Queen Elizabeth and Chelsea Hospital, West London, where the last quadruplets were born. From left, the McDonald physician of Glasgow, the Trustees of the Multiple Births Foundation and the Constant Mourning of Britain. (Reuter)

Thatcher conf... business | More concessions

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# Japan's custom-made leader

## THE TIMES PROFILE

SHINTARO ABE

When Shintaro Abe, one of the Grand Old Men of Japanese politics, becomes Japan's next prime minister — it will be more than just an inconvenience for Toshiaki Kaifu, who was hoping to keep the job if he led Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats to their expected victory in elections this month.

Abe's succession will be the signal for the rest of the world, which sometimes still finds the Japanese way as mysterious as the Milky Way, that the political turmoil of the past year is over. The *ancien régime* will have recovered from the bribery and sex scandals that forced it into a year-long purdah, and an unadventurous, conservative, wrinkly pair of hands will be back on the steering wheel.

It will be the end of Japan's timid steps towards a leaner, less cash-hungry, more youthful political machine, which looked as if it might have a chance after almost every member of the ruling party's ageing élite had been smeared by the Recruit bribes scandal.

The next generation of political heavyweights, now in their forties and fifties — striplings in short pants in Japan, where MPs turn 60 before even thinking of high office — will bite their lips and re-learn the virtues of patience. Japan's system of political patronage, under which the premier's job is rotated among the Liberal Democratic Party's warring tribes, will have triumphed once again. But Abe (pronounced Aahbay) will shed few tears.

He has invested almost every moment of his adult life in becoming prime minister. He is "owed" the job by Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister, leader of a rival faction within the LDP, and still the most powerful man in Japanese politics even though he stepped down as premier over the Recruit affair. Takeshita was handed the baton by Yasuhiro Nakasone and agreed to pass it to Abe after a decent interval. Spontaneity and uncertainty are not prized commodities in Japan.

The smooth line of succession was derailed by the Recruit scandal, which forced Takeshita to leave the stage and control the action from the wings. But the

juddering train appears to be getting back on track. It is called consensus politics and owes more to the secretive negotiations that produce a puff of smoke and a new Pope than it does to Western ideas of democracy.

But under the unbroken 35-year rule of the LDP, Japan has become richer than it dreamed possible. Many voters feel they have little reason to mourn if their MPs, who anyway leave most policy-making to bureaucrats, want to spend their time playing pass-the-parcel.

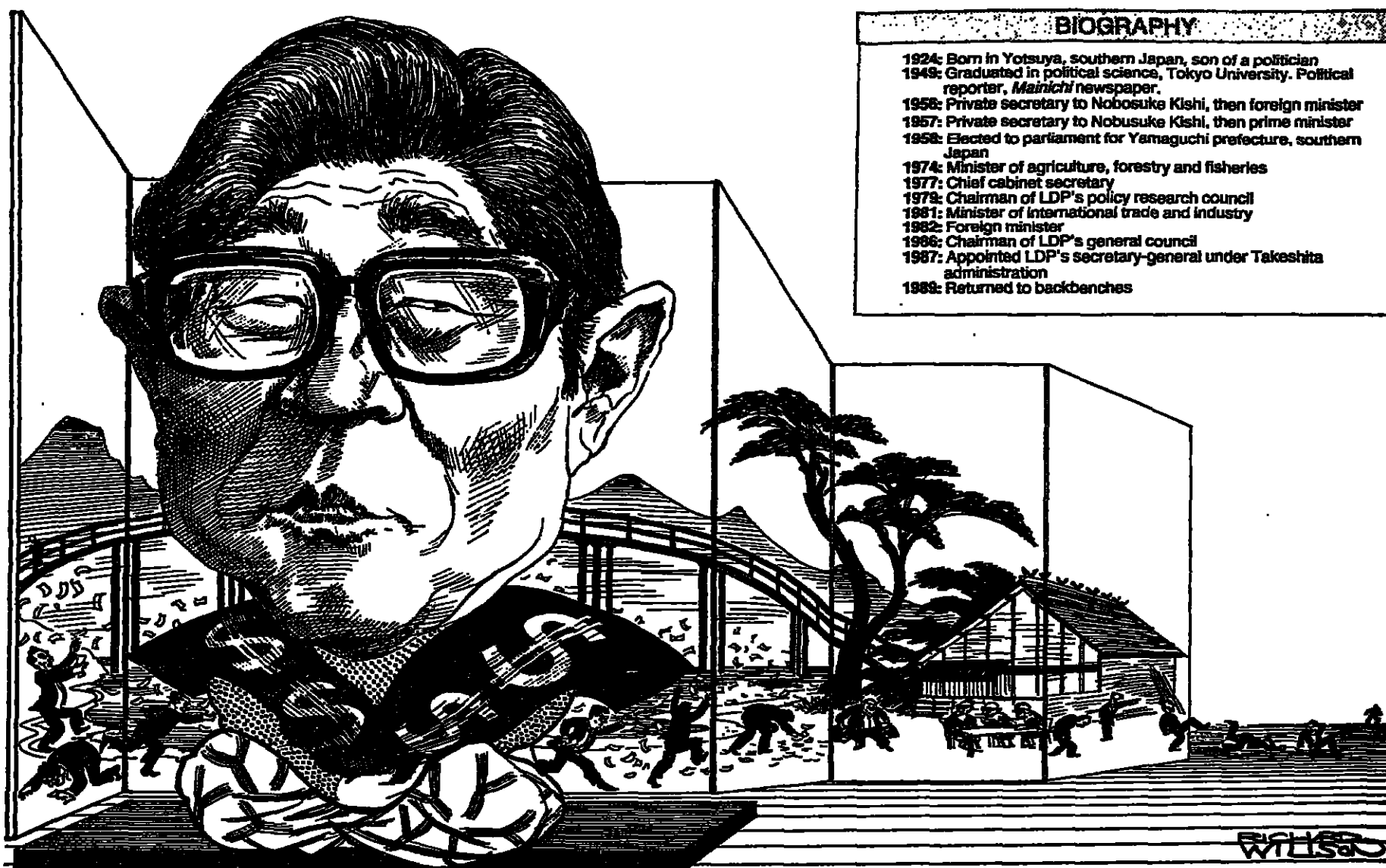
Abe, now aged 65, has left little to chance. Born the son of an MP — usually enough in itself to secure a seat in parliament in Japan, where constituencies are handed from father to son like family heirlooms — Abe took out the insurance policy of marrying the boss's daughter. His wedding to the daughter of former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi increased his clout. His two sons, who married daughters of powerful Japanese businessmen, have spread Abe's family network into the next generation.

In a country which admires few things more than conformity, Abe has pursued a textbook course for the élite. He graduated in 1949 in politics from Tokyo University, Japan's best. After a stint as a political journalist with the middle-of-the-road *Mainichi* newspaper, he entered politics in 1956, at the age of 32, as private secretary to his influential father-in-law. Two years later he was elected to parliament.

He has served as agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, chief cabinet secretary, international trade and industry minister, chairman of the LDP's policy research council, the LDP's secretary general and Japan's longest-serving and most widely-travelled foreign minister since the Second World War.

Abe has even written a book about diplomacy, full of the vague, unobjectionable mumbo-jumbo which is the stock in trade of the consensus-craving MP. In his four years as foreign minister he did what all Japanese ministers do, and stamped his seal of approval on what his civil servants put before him.

It is a c.v. that far outshines Takeshita's, let alone that of Kaifu, who only had a stint as education minister under his belt when he was plucked from obscurity last autumn to replace the



## BIOGRAPHY

1924: Born in Yotsuya, southern Japan, son of a politician  
1949: Graduated in political science, Tokyo University. Political reporter, *Mainichi* newspaper  
1956: Private secretary to Nobusuke Kishi, then foreign minister  
1957: Private secretary to Nobusuke Kishi, then prime minister  
1958: Elected to parliament for Yamaguchi prefecture, southern Japan  
1974: Minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries  
1977: Chief cabinet secretary  
1978: Chairman of LDP's policy research council  
1981: Minister of international trade and industry  
1982: Foreign minister  
1986: Chairman of LDP's general council  
1987: Appointed LDP's secretary-general under Takeshita administration  
1989: Returned to backbenches

geisha-tainted Sosuke Uno. While his newspaper experience has given him a finer feel for public opinion than the other grandees of the LDP, Abe is a match for any of them in fundraising, an art which guarantees power in the LDP: it creates a war chest to nurse young MPs who then pledge their allegiance to their benefactor. Abe has built up a faction of 80 MPs, second only to Takeshita's 105.

If his fundraising skills helped to catapult him up the government ladder, they also threatened to be his undoing. In April last year he admitted that his wife, Yoko, had pocketed about eight million yen (£32,500) from the disgraced Recruit company, whose former boss is on trial for bribing senior Japanese MPs, businessmen and bureaucrats. The money was billed as a "consulting fee". But it is believed that Abe got nearly 100 million yen (£405,500) in all from Recruit in political donations.

Such activities were run-of-the-

mill until the scale of Recruit's generosity shocked even a Japanese public which thought it had nothing new to learn about its politicians' influence-peddling and nest-feathering.

There would have been a public outcry if Abe had been shoe-horned into the job when Takeshita was forced to step down last summer over his links to Recruit, since he, too, had Recruit money in his wallet. When Uno's philandering with bar girls made the prime minister's job vacant again, a second caretaker was found in Kaifu.

His job was to keep the seat warm until the country was ready for Abe. A secondary factor was that after his long wait, Abe suddenly was not ready for the job. He was rushed into hospital last summer, apparently for gallstone surgery, although political insiders said the malady might well be more serious.

Even Abe must have thought that Recruit and illness had together killed his dream of leading Japan. But his health began to pick up again, and with it his ambition. He has been making speeches and shaking hands for months, since long before the general election was called. Abe knows that Takeshita will honour his promise to hand over the reins. All that is left is to persuade voters he has done penance for his ties to the Recruit mess and to find a way to put the hapless Kaifu out to grass.

The Japanese have short, forgiving memories. The LDP's popularity in recent opinion polls suggests that the Recruit episode has become just another of several political corruption scandals punctuating Japan's postwar history. What nags Abe is that the inexperienced but unexceptionable Kaifu may also have helped to rally the party's fortunes and that Kaifu may be seeking his reward.

Abe's poor health has persuaded him not to dilly-dally by allowing Kaifu to fade slowly. Also worrying Abe is the crop of young Turks — including Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, and Ichiro Ozawa, the LDP's secretary general, both popular and talented — who are itching for power to fall to a younger generation of leaders. A plan has been hatched to make it almost impossible for Kaifu to last long after the election, whatever the outcome.

Takeshita did his bit by making it clear that he was still kingmaker, that he was pulling Kaifu's strings and it was up to the puppet-master to decide when Kaifu left the stage. Abe and Takeshita snapped what remained of Kaifu's confidence by arranging for Abe to make a high-profile, headline-stealing visit to President Gorbachev in Moscow last month, just when Kaifu was making a statesman's tour of Europe. Abe's travelling companions included LDP leaders while

Kaifu's entourage was padded out with what one observer called "a motley bunch of junior spear-bearers who tagged along for the ride".

What are Abe's chances of success? Probably rather good. A whispering campaign has begun to prepare the ground.

A senior member of the LDP said: "There is a growing feeling within the party that there is a need to establish a 'proper' administration as soon as possible to deal with the serious issues facing the LDP, both within and outside the party."

A top member of Abe's faction says matter-of-factly: "It is not envisaged that Kaifu will serve for the full term of his presidency," which expires in October. "We'll see a change in the leadership by the June to August period of this year. We would be happy to see Abe take over."

So will Abe.

Joe Joseph

## Christie's, the inside story

Discover why Brian Sewell, art critic of the year in 1989, abandoned a promising career at Christie's ("An unhappy story and some may say one that need not be told...").

Find out what happened when the Max Factor magnate Norton Simon gave the auctioneer impossible instructions at the sale of Rembrandt's portrait of "Titus" ("...When he stands up he has stopped bidding. If he then sits down again he is not bidding until he raises his finger...").

Be a fly on the wall when New York supremo David Bathurst tells of the "erroneous" statement that ruined his career with Christie's ("Just say they were sold, John").

All this, and more, can be found in *Inside Christie's* by John Herbert, the company's head of public relations for three decades until he retired in 1985.

It is the first book on the company since 1958. Although couched in the discreet terms of the author's caste (he is the son of the novelist A.P. Herbert), it is the closest we will probably ever get to a Christie's "kiss and tell".

Last week, Herbert could be found at his picturesque house beside the Thames at Hammersmith, the phone ringing constantly as former colleagues gave reassurances that the content of the book was acceptable to them. For example, Johnny van Haeften, an eminent West End dealer and once Herbert's minion, apparently doesn't mind being described as "a rather frivolous youth".

Although most of Christie's present directors escape such tart characterizations, it is rumoured that the book contains enough to embarrass them and that they plan to boycott the launch party next Monday.

Inevitably, in view of the subject, the book frequently glitters with strings of "discovery" stories, and the occasional in-house romance. Published for the first time is a photograph of Judy Runkin modelling jewellery during an auction. The one-time Miss Perkins, you call my lawyer, and I'll call Christie's

now owns Sotheby's. He made her his wife.

The book has its share of japes, as when the experts invented the name Lawrence Bastard for an artist whose identity was unknown, and in 1964, when Charlie Allsopp, now the London chairman, went boating in Lord Rockley's estate in Gloucestershire during a valuation. The boat capsized. "I remember feeling slightly uneasy," Herbert writes, "wondering what Lord Rockley would have thought — I knew he made sudden unannounced appearances at Northwick Park."

Another close shave was when David Bathurst nearly refused to sell a Seurat to an unfamiliar "bearded man in a mackintosh". Luckily the gentleman handed up a card saying: "The bearer of this card is authorized to bid on my behalf. Paul Mellon."

Such incidents are just the sort of anecdotes that auctioneers like to project, furthering as they do a desirable image of their trade. But Herbert also rocks the boat with details about its flip-side, such as trade secrets about deals struck with clients and the cynical methods of researching and flattering the rich. One in-house memo, reproduced in full, sends a particular chill: "Obituary lists should be circulated every morning to directors in case there was anyone with important works of art."

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After an initial visit to Cuba by the chairman, Peter

Chance, and subsequently an intensive valuation session by three members of staff (one of whom undertook his job sweltering in his Bond Street serge suit), the project came to nothing.

All this takes place against a background of the slow, often painful growth of Christie's into an international operation.

Whether the company has evolved from elitism to meritocracy, as Herbert claims, is questionable. And there are still only two women out of 35 board members.

**artfile**  
A weekly look at the art world

Sarah Jane Checkland

So why did Brian Sewell leave? Herbert puts it down to a combination of frustration at the infighting within his department, along with the company's failure to promote him.

A contributory factor could have been an incident when the company announced that a Rubens *modello* had been identified by the better-known expert, David Carruth, when the discovery was in fact made by Sewell himself.

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Eventually, Chance felt forced to start the bidding again, and Simon secured his prize. The price was £798,000 — the highest then paid for a picture in Britain. Letters of objection were written to *The Times*.

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

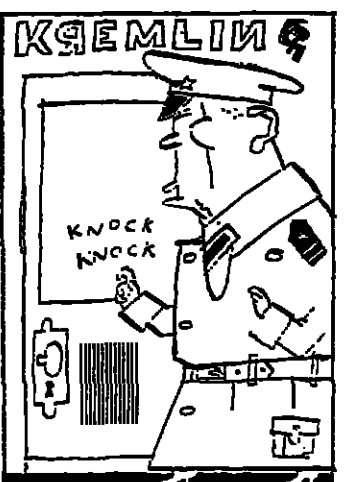
Egon Krenz — the man who gave the order to open the Berlin Wall — is out of work, pensionless and trying to make money by peddling his memoirs of six short weeks in power in East Germany. Last weekend he tested the market in Bremen, where he appeared on a radio talk show before going on to relax in a Hamburg jazz cellar. Later, he was allowed to sit in at the editorial conference of the mass-circulation daily *Bild* which, when Krenz ousted Honecker to seize power, castigated his high living and heavy drinking. "When Karl Marx leaves, Johannes Walker comes in." Afterwards, all clearly forgiven, Germany's best fish restaurant, and plied him with food and drink. But they didn't buy his book — perhaps because he hasn't written it yet.

Further East European news. You remember wireless sets, don't you? The big things that could pick up Hilversum and Athens, powered by great glowing valves, that have now given way to the ubiquitous tranny. David Crossley, who runs his own Birmingham electronics business, has landed a £25,000 initial order to supply these old-fashioned valves to Bulgaria. Not, I may say, to allow the Bulgarians to keep listening to the BBC, but to keep their elderly airport radar functioning through the next decade. "Modern radar systems don't use valves any more, but they are actually in many ways more reliable than transistors," Crossley tells me. And before you look down your nose at the poor, antiquated Bulgarians, or change your mind about flying into Sofia, let me tell you that he supplies them to our own Civil Aviation Authority as well.

Passengers on an Aer Lingus flight to Manchester were alarmed when it suddenly halted on the apron at Dublin and the captain announced that a vital piece of equipment had been left behind. After some minutes they saw the essential part being wheeled towards them: the drinks trolley.

Was *The Times* of last century superior to *The Sun* today? We like to think so, but an essay on "Victorian Standards" in the current issue of the magazine *British Style* doubts it. We informed our readers one morning that "Mr Gladstone, the Prime Minister, has suffered a sharp attack of diarrhoea," and on another occasion thought nothing of intruding on the breakfast table with a debate on whether public urinals should be erected within sight of the homes of gentlemen. This newspaper apart, things don't change much except, the magazine suggests, that we have lost the Victorians' talent for hypocrisy. "It was a time when fashionable whores mixed freely in High Society," says *British Style*. Oh, things haven't changed a bit.

BARRY FANTONI



"Safe to go to bed, Mr Gorbachev — I've checked underneath for Reds"

Editorship of the BBC's flagship current affairs show *Panorama* is up for grabs. The present rising-star incumbent, Tim Gardam, has been promoted to the higher and darker skies of *Newsnight*, where he can twinkle more brightly. Among the 18 candidates to be interviewed next week for the prestigious — and of course thoroughly impartial — post is Stephen Robin, now in public relations and adviser to a couple of MPs on the Broadcasting Bill. During the 1987 general election Robin was head of broadcasting at Tory Central Office, counterpart to Labour's Peter Mandelson. He left to fight the Euro-seat of Strathclyde West for the Tories, and was pummeled into third place by Labour and the SNP. Whether such a political CV is help or hindrance before the BBC mandarins, I shall be most interested to discover.

Bad times for estate agents are forcing them to new heights of hyperbole and irrelevant conjunction in their hand-outs. "Dylan Thomas would have drunk there," says the prospectus for a coach house in Laugharne, south Wales, entirely unconnected with the poet's boathouse home, and converted to a wine bar more than 35 years after the village's most famous resident passed on to the great public bar in the sky. Mind you, poor dear Dylan would have drunk anywhere.

I have to go back a bit before I can go forward. 1964. The *Daily Herald*, for which I wrote leaders, was on its last legs. Average age of readership: deceased. Circulation: we would rather not say. The only advertisements it pulled in were for hearing aids and bunion cures. Agencies came up with the battle cry: "Put your trust in the *Daily Herald*."

Then early in September of that year it was relaunched and became *The Sun* — hardly any relation to the present title. I became its sports writer and in October I was sent to Tokyo to cover the Olympic Games.

When I came back to London I appeared on an Eamonn Andrews show to talk about our athletes, and then did another show, and another, and became famous. I opened filling stations for serious money and when I went out people gaped and said: "It's him."

## Communism, killed by a new revolution

Two political phenomena today dominate political life in Eastern Europe: pluralism and the dissolution of the Communist party. To be sure, they are dialectically inter-related. Political pluralism did not come out of the blue. It is the necessary result in the political sphere of a process of social differentiation.

The official communist claim up to now was that, because of industrialization, an ever-increasing working class would take shape in the post-revolutionary epoch, a class sufficiently integrated to share a common ideological consciousness and a common set of material and cultural interests.

As for the Communist party, it was initially conceived as the party of the proletariat, by which Marx and Lenin meant the class exploited by the capitalists by doing manual work. Of course, as the party of the future, it was supposed to lead a class that embodied the most advanced emerging productive forces.

The scientific-technological revolution has invalidated all these assumptions one by one.

Instead of homogenization, we witness a process of social differentiation which will be widened by the current reforms. The socio-occupational groups that emerge range from unskilled and skilled manual workers to engineers and specialists, white-collar functionaries and state administrative personnel, creative intellectual professionals, service employees, private artisans and repairmen, co-operative workers and entrepreneurs etc. In brief, the technological revolution has virtually destroyed the notion of the working class as a large, compact, sociological unity.

Therefore, the question is whether the Communist party will be able to reshape its conception and organization to accommodate the various interests and views of the emerging social groups, particularly those of the intellectuals. The issue was discussed candidly at a seminar last May in the Soviet Siberian city of Novosibirsk entitled "Perestroika? Who is in favour and who against?" Examining the results of a six-year inquiry led by the Soviet

### Silviu Brucan, a leader of the new Romania, believes swift technical change has left the party obsolete

sociologist Tatiana Zaslavskaya, the seminar concluded: manual workers are against; skilled workers support democratization but not economic changes; intellectuals and leaders are in favour of both; bureaucrats and the administrative apparatus oppose radical reform; managers of enterprises support economic change, but not political change. Now, where and how are these major social groups going to express their views?

In a socially differentiated society, political pluralism is a must if violent social eruptions and clashes are to be avoided and economic activities are to follow an ascending line. In recent times, Gorbachev has often mentioned "socialist pluralism". But what exactly is it?

There are only two possible types: a multi-party system or

pluralism within a one-party system. However, party pluralism means renouncing the monolithic conception that has made the Communist party intolerant, repressive and bureaucratic. This means the acceptance and legalization of groups and factions within the party, the only way of making it democratic and representative. In fact, factions did exist and will always exist in a socially differentiated society with a one-party system. Even after the tenth congress of the Bolshevik party in 1921 which, at Lenin's proposal, adopted the resolution forbidding them, factions continued to exist, with leftist and rightist platforms clashing in the party and in public.

Subsequently, one faction — be it Stalin's, Khrushchev's, Brezhnev's or now Gorbachev's — has invariably run the party by eliminating the other. It is monolithism — the denial of the right of various social groups to be represented — that has made the Communist party repressive, within and without.

The fact is that if the constituent parts of society do not and cannot defend their interests and express their views in the only party that exists, then the emergence of alternative political parties is not only inevitable but perfectly legitimate. That is exactly what is happening throughout Eastern Europe.

Moreover, the principal social effect of the technological revolution has pushed the intellectuals to the forefront of society. We are thus dealing with a social stratum that cannot possibly come to terms with an intolerant and repressive political machinery.

In addition, the ideal social base of the Communist party, the manual workers of peasant origin, is a dwindling social stratum, diminishing both in numbers and social status. The underlying social reason for Gorbachev's "period of stagnation" was his refusal to sacrifice the pre-eminence of the industrial worker on the altar of the technological revolution.

In the age of computers and the information society, the manual worker can hardly be described as the embodiment of the most advanced productive process. Hence a legitimate question arises: how can the Communist party, which was established to represent him, remain in the political vanguard?

That is why the Communist parties in Eastern Europe are doomed to extinction. Even in the Soviet Union, the Communist party is apparently unable to play the vanguard role required by Gorbachev's revolutionary breakthrough.

Professor Brucan, once a leading member of the Romanian Communist Party, was one of six Romanians who wrote an open letter to the West in March 1989 criticizing Ceausescu's policies. This week he resigned from the executive of the National Salvation Front but remains on its council and will be involved in shaping the Front's campaign for the May general election.

### Glenys Kinnock offers a personal view of Nicaragua as national elections near

## A land in need of healing aid

How can it be, asks Father Miguel d'Escoto, the foreign minister, that Nicaragua is such a threat? "There are just two elevators in the whole country — and only one of them works." Time and again, as Brenda Dean and I toured Nicaragua at a critical time in its history, we heard the same complaint: "Our right to sovereignty is denied on the basis that we represent a threat, existing as we do in their backyard, to the USA."

We arrived one month before the presidential and local elections and immediately felt the full blast of the Sandinista government's hard campaigning. In the north, we heard several accounts of continuing activity by the Contras in response to that campaign — attacks on local communities, ambushes of those at the forefront of the electoral fight. Some 4,000 Contras have flooded back into the countryside from their Honduras base camps.

The main opposition, UNO, has apparently been damaged by these attacks. Its president, Ciriaco Sosa, has a son in the Contra army. Sosa himself was a lieutenant in the National Guard run by Somoza, the dictator overthrown by the Sandinistas in 1975.

It was in the town of Esteli that

we saw most clearly the impact of the war. Agriculture has been severely disrupted over the last decade, because of the US economic blockade they cannot sell their tobacco and coffee crops. The result — paralysis of the whole region.

Yet the amnesty offered to the Contras by the Sandinista government seems to have been accepted. "We have to live with them or face more war," a government official told us. "We want to believe that peace is possible." But only a fortnight earlier, a group of Sandinistas had been ambushed by Contra terrorists as they travelled to an election meeting. The Sandinistas' driver, a young serviceman, was killed, a teachers' union official critically injured.

Yet despite the thuggery and intimidation, there is enormous enthusiasm for the election. Almost nine out of ten of those eligible to vote have registered. There remains a strong sense of national identity. In the Managua barrio and in the villages, people are acutely aware of their country's history, of the long struggle against dictatorship, and repeated US intervention.

Of late, the added US military presence in Panama has resulted in an extra turning of the screw

Bernard Levin's column will appear tomorrow.



on Nicaragua. Since the US trade embargo was imposed in 1985, Panama has been the main channel for Nicaraguan foreign commerce and access to American goods and dollars.

Virtually everyone I met had lost a loved one in the past decade. "I thought I too would die," an old lady told me, "when my son was killed by the Contras." The suffering is exacerbated by the government's drastic cuts in public expenditure and investment as it tries to stabilize the economy. Inflation, which exceeded 80,000 per cent in 1988, has been reduced to about 10 per cent a month. But the cost has been enormous.

At the hospital in Esteli the doctors spent out the real cost of the war. "There is not going to be much left over when a country has to spend 50 per cent of its GNP on defence," one said.

The hospital in Esteli is short of everything: staff, drugs, syringes, and sheets. Babies are suffering from malnutrition, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections — although, thanks to a health campaign involving everyone from the president down, the infant mortality rate has been more than halved in the past 10 years and there has been a significant increase in the provision of primary preventive services at community level.

Even so, hospitals find it hard to deliver even a basic service. A surgeon complained that he often has to ask patients to buy their own sutures before he can operate, and though medication is free for some, the rest have to pay. Maria Tellez, the health minister, has agreed to the introduction of pay beds. She wants those who can afford to buy treatment to provide the

money for those who cannot. She said, half-joking, that a by-product is the increase in the "social productivity" of the doctors. Now, instead of going home at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, they stay to attend to their private patients.

The health system, like much else in Nicaragua, has developed from a general commitment to pluralism and to a socialist system which takes into account the realities of the situation. Change has called for the active and enthusiastic involvement of the people, something which gives heart to agencies such as Oxfam. A dialogue exists between government, professionals, communities and the popular organizations. Their shared responsibility for the outcome is recognized.

Meanwhile the efforts to secure reconciliation go on. Vice-

President Sergio Ramirez compares the process to a train which offers a journey to all the people of Nicaragua. "The wounds will only be healed when we join together to rebuild our shattered economy," he said.

But it is not entirely up to the Nicaraguan people. International aid is urgently needed and their isolation must be ended if they are to work their way out of their crushing poverty. Nicaragua has been applauded by many individuals and organizations for the way it has established a priority of needs in difficult economic conditions. It is time now for countries like Britain to respond to its achievements by providing development aid.

Currently there is little attempt to respond to the genuine humanitarian needs of Nicaragua. It is time indeed that the entire European Community adopted a more positive and supportive approach. Also, if a "special relationship" still exists, our government should urge Washington to lift the trade embargo and to press the World Bank, the IMF and others to take a more sympathetic approach.

Señora d'Escoto, mother of the foreign minister, told us why she was so looking forward to election day. It will be only her second opportunity to vote during her 90 years. I hope, along with her, for the processes of healing to take shape after February 25. It will, after all, be the most "observed" election ever in an independent country. If the UN and the Organization of American States declare it to have been free and fair, this will surely signal an end to the military and economic aggression which has cost so many thousands of Nicaraguan lives.

Glenys Kinnock is chairwoman of the Berni Carlson Trust. Her visit to Nicaragua was sponsored by the Catholic Institute of International Affairs.

### Ronald Butt urges sympathy for de Klerk as well as Gorbachov

## Mirror images of reform

In 1989 only because Gorbachov had given clear signals that the Soviet Union would not suppress them with tanks. They knew there had been a change of heart and mind in the Soviet Union and that a different sort of politics was emerging at last from the cold, dogmatic climate of Krenlin Marxism, as always must happen eventually after any revolution.

To recognize all this is neither sentiment nor wishful thinking. Still less does it imply that the West should lower its military guard. It is simply an acknowledgment of the historical truth that even the most total tyranny must end sooner or later, and that the best hope of ending it in reasonable peace lies in action taken from within the system itself by reasonable men who had gained access to politics in the only way open to them.

Now let us apply the same principles to President de Klerk. South Africa and the grudging reaction of some on the liberal-left to his speech last week. It can

be summed up as follows: though the banned African organizations have been unbanned and Nelson Mandela is to be freed, much of the system of apartheid remains and, in de Klerk's proposals for negotiations, there is no specific commitment to a person-one vote on a single franchise roll.

In London on his way to South Africa, the Rev Jesse Jackson acknowledged the importance of de Klerk's speech but still saw no case either for encouraging progress by ending sanctions (it was enough to refrain from strengthening them) or for any concessions on investment in South Africa.

The conditions for both were not only the total end of apartheid but a definite agreement on full democracy as the *sine qua non* of dealings with South Africa. There is, he thinks, no more reason to fear universal suffrage on a single voting roll than there were grounds in the US for the fear of desegregation before it happened.

Yet what many white South Africans fear is not democracy but rather the possibility that one man-one vote on a single roll might produce a one-party state built on the manipulation of a large black majority plunged suddenly into the democratic process. They fear the possibility of a society with standards of incorruptibility, liberty and efficiency such as obtain elsewhere in Africa.

President de Klerk has made it clear that he is now committed to universal franchise and full democracy. There is also no doubt, both from his and from other ministerial statements, that race classification is to end, which implies a single franchise roll. The establishment of black homelands and a three-chamber parliament have both been tried without success and the government now accepts that white South Africans cannot simply prescribe a constitution. They know that its formulation must be shared with blacks and all other communities so that all

can live with it and develop it. The questions to be settled, therefore, concern the method of a single franchise roll: whether it is to be by proportional representation and in what manner; how minorities are to be protected; how civil liberties are to be safeguarded and so on. President de Klerk has to overcome resistance in his own community, and that is why he cannot commit himself outright to a specific constitutional goal. Like Gorbachov the Communist leader, de Klerk the Afrikaner leader must act by stages.

It appears to be envisaged that the negotiating process will last at least a year from the time it starts and will involve representatives from all the interested groups, territories and tribes. For de Klerk to have said more about the future at this stage than he did say would have been to give hostages to fortune. It would be equally foolish not to bracket the commitment to universal suffrage with one to protecting the rights of all minorities. It is not

simply a question of safeguarding the rights of a white minority which has been indifferent to those of the black majority. What matters is whether South Africa, with its mineral wealth and its sophisticated Western economy, is to become a genuine democracy in spirit to the benefit of all its inhabitants or a pseudo-democratic state with universal franchise which can be manipulated for arbitrary purposes at the cost of social and economic decay.

The wish for a speedy end to apartheid is healthy. But for some anti-apartheid campaigners in this country there is an instinctive urge to see the present "masters" humiliated by a kind of unconditional surrender, just as some in the past have sometimes seemed resigned to risk bloodshed to achieve that ideal. Yet if there is one overriding lesson of history it is that progress is best and most durable when it is gained by evolution and worst when revolution sows the seeds of future trouble.

The task of Presidents Gorbachov and de Klerk has been to woo people into change, and they deserve calm and encouraging responses. When a door is opened, the threshold should be crossed thoughtfully and preferably with a smile — not with threats.

## Warming to an ageing Grimble

"Who?" asked their children. "The one from telly," explained their parents, "he's famous."

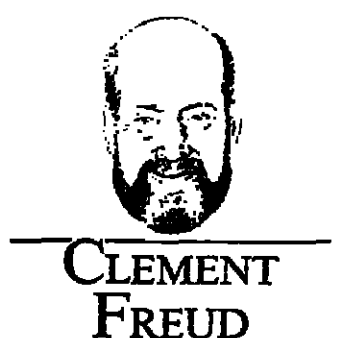
I did all the things famous people do: *Call My Bluff*, *Tell The Truth*, *What's My Line*, *The Simon Dee Show* and, because I had once been a cook, I was awarded an ITV cookery programme called *Freud on Food*. In 1966 the BBC asked me if I would do *Jackanory*, a children's programme then presented by famous people like Peter Sellers and Bernard Cribbins, and I said yes.

I told a story about a boy called Grimble — an amalgam of my five children — who was "about ten" and had rotten parents. The old Grimbles went away to Peru

without telling him and left notes about where to find food; sent misleading telegrams about when they might be coming back. Altogether I did three Grimble stories.

*Grimble* was published by Collins and I became a famous author. Barry Norman interviewed me — before he became famous — and the book sold 20,000 in hardback — I guaranteed the sale and got left with 3,000 copies, which are still mouldering in a St John's Wood garage.

Puffin printed *Grimble* in paperback and since 1967 it has reprinted the book once or twice each year: modest reprints, but



CLEMENT FREUD

ever and anon enlightened schoolteachers buy copies and read them to their pupils. At the end of the lesson they tell their customers to write to Mr Freud and explain what they liked in the

book and ask when he is going to write another.

We now move to Tuesday of this week when I got a batch of letters from children at St Mary's Church of England primary school in Stansted, Essex. Among them was the most touching communication to reach me since I did a commercial for a pet food called *Chunky Meat* and received a note from a West Indian bus driver: "This *Chunky Meat* you say is good, is not so good; it tastes pretty nasty and don't go too well with green banana hash."

I publish the seven-year-old child's letter in its entirety: "Dear Mr Freud. How are you? From here I'm from Lebanon. Your

book is very hard but I like some of it when I understand. Love from Wassim."

In the same class an urbane boy called David: "Dear Mr Freud, I hope your book is selling well. I'm 7 years old."

Zoe: "Next Christmas, please can you write *Santa and the Big Snowfall*. Yours sincerely,"

Rebecca wrote: "I like it when Grimble's father says if someone starts a sentence with actually, it means they are telling lies. I also like Ronald Dahl and Enid Blyton. You should write more books about Grimble."

From Corinne's letter I learn that she has two pets a budgie and a rabbit — yours sincerely please

write back. Richard says: "I like *Grimble* because the parents are brilliant. I would like to be a writer." And Hayley wants me to write her a book called *My Little Pony*.

For the last 24 years I have toyed with writing more children's books — because of the enormous pleasure of getting letters from satisfied clients; I get none from those who have bought my eight grown-up books. I thought of *Grimble* at Westminster — but it would have an unhappy ending. *Grimble* in *Fleet Street* might have been all right, but *Grimble* at *Wapping* doesn't sound like a best seller. When I have worked out what to do with the 3,000 hardbacks in the St John's Wood garage, I might write a sequel; by that time Wassim — whose love I return — will understand. It's all about having good teachers like the one at St Mary's in Stansted.

Control of the... From the Chief Executive of Plumbing...

Sir, What the pro... for tradesmen... on January 31; let... 5) is the means... identifying complete...

In other communi... nism is comparable... where in the UK... control. My own in... is a professional... supported entirely... voluntary subscription...

Two years ago the... report by the "best... member. The report... for the general... provision of build... better case for con... station for con... electrical installation... of health and safety...

are involved





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## REVOLUTION IN MOSCOW

History was made in the Kremlin yesterday. The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party adopted a new political platform under which Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution, the legal basis for the Communist Party's monopoly of power, is to be abolished. For the first time since 1917, the party Lenin once called the "conscience, honour and mind of the nation" will have to justify that large claim against fierce political competition.

That one fact dwarfs all others: the Soviet Union is launched on a road which must eventually lead to political pluralism, however handicapped its development may be by the Union's still-operative socialist Constitution. Soviet voters have been given the unmistakable signal that the party is no longer an inescapable feature of their lives, even if it is not yet, as it was described last night by the president of the Russian Federation, Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, "just like any party in the world". President Gorbachev, whatever concessions have been offered the party hardliners in pursuit of consensus, has won the battle to modernize the party and thus, he hopes, to harness the forces of change in the Soviet Union.

Success in that strategic goal is far from assured: having outflanked the party orthodox, he faces the much harder task of convincing the Soviet people that modernization is enough to give the party the "decisive role" he still seeks for it in political life. However radical yesterday's decisions may seem to the party faithful, they will strike many voters as no more than plain common sense, and many more as wholly inadequate.

The nervousness of the orthodox on that score helps to explain why the plenum took a third unscheduled morning to reach its decision, and why Mr Gorbachev came under the fiercest attacks of his career. He was criticized both by reformers and hardliners for indecisive leadership. Even among the ranks of his closest supporters, there were demands that "extremist" parties be banned which reflected profound misgivings about giving genuinely free rein to political debate.

A chorus led by Mr Gorbachev's ranking opponent, Mr Yegor Ligachov, demanded the restoration of party discipline, blamed Mr Gorbachev's policies of *perestroika* for wrecking the Soviet economy and *glasnost* for bringing it to the edge of chaos. The bitterness of their criticisms reflects the awareness of the *apparatchiks* who make up more than 70 per cent of the Central Committee that, as some said, the principle of socialist internationalism was at stake.

The question, as they filed out of the Kremlin, was whether Lenin's state, to which

they owe their positions, can survive without Lenin's state ideology. The point was underlined earlier this week when grassroots pressure, coupled with the refusal of industrial collectives to pay their party dues, compelled the resignation of yet another party chief, this time in the important industrial region of Sverdlovsk. Across the country, there are reports of defections from the party, and the formation of new political groups.

Both trends may well accelerate if, as expected, party candidates do badly in the forthcoming local elections. Even before the party Congress, which has been brought forward to midsummer, meets to endorse the new platform, the party is likely to split into factions, with the centre losing not only the hardliners but those who, like Mr Boris Yeltsin, believe that Mr Gorbachev has been insufficiently radical.

Mr Gorbachev's authority, in a weakened party, could be enhanced by the increased executive powers he is set to assume — as state President, not as party chief. But the more he distances himself from the party, the more directly accountable he will be held for the miserable performance of the Soviet economy. It is difficult to see how he can continue to present himself as the champion of civil and political freedoms without tackling the inconsistency between political pluralism and bureaucratic centralism.

The lesson of Eastern Europe is that those who have tried to modernize communism have lost out; it is those prepared to break with a hated system who rapidly assumed leadership once the facades began to crack. The Soviet Union, however, may not shed Leninism so rapidly: the product is home-grown, and longer-established. Mr Ligachov called for a referendum on the introduction of private property to make the point that distrust of the marketplace is deeply rooted.

So far, Mr Gorbachev's political instincts — and beliefs — have inclined him to extreme caution on the economic front. Last December's outline of the new five-year plan purported to provide for the transition to "market-oriented relations", but in fact deferred reforms, such as price liberalization, without which a transition is impossible. The "planned market" is a contradiction in terms.

Mr Gorbachev's dilemma is that the risks involved in the political reforms which he has induced the party to sanction are magnified by economic stagnation, but that the pain of serious reforms could hasten the party's demise. He has proved himself once again a master of political manoeuvre; the coming months will stretch to the full his capacity for strategic vision.

## GUARDING FAIRNESS

A major fraud trial involving a number of people well known in the City is about to begin at Southwark Crown Court. Yesterday the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling by the trial judge on Monday, Mr Justice Henry, that it could be reported in the press. *The Times* was one of the newspapers which, along with broadcasting organizations, had sought that ruling and which therefore opposed yesterday's appeal against it.

The Court of Appeal's decision, which was technically a refusal of leave to appeal, leaves newspapers clear for the first time to refer to the existence of these matters, which could not have been mentioned before without risk of contempt of court. Even Mr Justice Henry's ruling against the imposition of reporting restrictions could not be reported on Monday, because of an application to appeal. If he had decided differently, or if the Court of Appeal had overturned his decision, it would not have been possible to report even that they had done so.

This is a situation which is both confusing and alarming. It results from a serpentine combination of two pieces of recent legislation, the Criminal Justice Act of 1987 and the Contempt of Court Act of 1981; and from the decision of Mr Justice Henry to allow two trials instead of one, although the events from which both of them arise were the same. (It is worth noting in passing that even his decision to allow two trials could not be reported until after the case yesterday.)

His reasons for allowing the cases to be split in two were manifestly based on the needs of justice, as to deal with so many complex matters in one trial would have risked unfairness. In his ruling on Monday Mr Justice Henry disclosed that after he had made that decision, it was argued on behalf of some of the defendants in the second trial that any reporting of the earlier trial could prejudice the later one. He accepted that that was at least possible, but on balancing it against the public interest, found in favour of the latter.

There are strong public policy reasons why justice should be administered openly, and

fairly reported," he declared. He also expressed some robust confidence in the fair-mindedness of juries, pointing out that they often heard cases with a potential for pre-judgement. "They overcome any such bias to deal with such matters properly and to the public satisfaction." But he added a stern warning to the press that any departure from the strict standards of fair reporting could be deemed to introduce prejudice into the minds of a second jury, and advised them to give this aspect their close attention.

All this is beyond criticism as a proper application of the present law. It is far from satisfactory that such laws exist, however. No doubt with the best of intentions, Parliament has turned the once simple task of court reporting into a labyrinth of confusing rules and conflicting principles. In that situation nothing is more certain than that sooner or later someone will make a serious mistake in an area of law where strict liability applies — no guilty intention has to be proved for an offence to be committed.

That fear alone could inhibit the press from discharging adequately its duty to acquaint the community with proceedings in the courts. It is, in Lord Denning's phrase, the watchdog guarding fairness. Parliament went wrong in its framing of the Criminal Justice Act when it decided to impose precise and complex restrictions on the reporting of fraud cases, because it made that important guardianship role very difficult to exercise effectively.

It would have done far better to have trusted judges to use their discretion under Section 4 of the Contempt of Court Act to prohibit reporting of specific pieces of evidence that might in the judge's opinion be seriously prejudicial to the interests of justice, and to have left it at that. Instead, Parliament tried to legislate for almost every eventuality.

The Criminal Justice Act has replaced common-sense discretion of judges, which is based on simple principles everyone understands, with a minefield of rules and regulations. In so doing it has damaged the interests not just of the press but of the public at large.

## Control of tradesmen

From the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Institute of Plumbing

Sir, What the public urgently needs for tradesmen (leading article, January 31; letters, February 5) is the means of adequately identifying competent operators.

In other countries the mechanism is compulsory registration, whereas in the UK there is no such control. My own institute, which is a professional body acting primarily in the public interest, is supported entirely by the voluntary subscription of members.

Two years ago the Department of the Environment published a report by the "beat the cowboys" group, of which I was a member. The report said the case for the general compulsory registration of builders was not proven. However, there was a proven case for compulsory registration for specialist areas of activity such as plumbing, gas, and electrical installation, where issues of health and safety of the public are involved.

The effects of bad gas and electrical work are self-evident and occasionally dramatic. Faulty plumbing is not always detectable, but drinking contaminated water and inhaling drain gases can be no less serious. Naturally, doctors rarely if ever associate sickness with bad plumbing!

How many more people must needlessly be made ill and perhaps

lose their lives through the actions of incompetent operators who prey on an unsuspecting public? People need protection to avoid the need to seek justice after such tragedies.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW WATTS,  
The Institute of Plumbing,  
64 Station Lane,  
Hornchurch, Essex.

come if the income tax form, showing a man's earnings and tax deducted in the year, which has to be given by an employer to a leaving employee and which the latter has to give to his new employer, could have a space in which a tick would denote an attachment order.

The employer would be under an obligation, when an employee leaves, to note by a tick that such an order had been made, and attach to the form the original order or a copy of it: the new employer would have to put this order into effect.

Yours faithfully,  
ABERCONWAY,  
40 Lowndes Street, SW1.

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Yours faithfully,  
ABERCONWAY,  
40 Lowndes Street, SW1.

## Suggestions for right sentences

From his Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, Whether or not a Sentencing Council is established, as Vivien Stern (February 5) suggests, would it not be helpful if counsel for the prosecution were permitted to suggest to the court what, in their view, the right sentence would be?

Now that prosecutions are conducted independently of the police, I cannot see any juridical objection to this. Judges and magistrates would not be bound to accept sentencing submissions made by the Crown, but such submissions might be helpful in achieving general consistency.

A further benefit would be that judges and magistrates would be given help in finding a safe path through various legislative minefields, in particular that which they tread when sentencing young offenders.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MASON,  
Lane Cottage, Amberley,  
Near Stroud, Gloucestershire,  
February 6.

## Legal language

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, In my last case before the House of Lords, being sick of humility, I boldly omitted from my petition the "humble and your petitioner will ever pray". The skies did not fall; the case went forward with no objections from anyone.

It seems that Mr Christopher Hart's suggestion (January 29) that the humble language is mandatory is not correct. It is in the hands of the legal profession to drop humility if it wishes to do so.

At the same time we must not lose the dignity of such legal language as upholds the majesty of the law, such as references by one counsel to another as "my learned friend".

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES BEATTIE,  
27 Old Buildings,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
January 29.

From Mr N. R. MacNicol

Sir, The very fact that a person has to petition the House of Lords indicates that the matter has already been considered in depth by judges who have ruled that the applicant does not have the rights claimed. He can hardly be said, therefore, to be "exercising his rights" (Mr Hart's letter, January 29); rather, he is asking some of the most distinguished and powerful peers of the realm to intervene on his behalf and grant him rights which he does not possess. It is quite possible that they will refuse.

I would have thought that a modicum of servility was expedient in such cases. The archaic language serves to cloak this hard fact from the "bolshie" client, or solicitor. However, if Mr Hart is right, counsel should stop using expressions such as "May I please your Lordships" and say, "Now look here, you lot".

Yours faithfully,  
N. R. MACNICOL,  
9 Church Lane, Greetham,  
Oakham, Leicestershire.

## Tree management

From Mr Graeme H. Bell

Sir, Once again we wring our hands at the loss of so many trees following a storm. Why should we be so surprised? Many of these trees were past maturity and should have been felled for useful timber years ago. All trees have a "best before" date and we would do well to respect that. The stately beech in the Chilterns and the leafy planes in our town streets need management, not preservation until they drop.

We selfishly protect the trees outside our own gardens, regardless of species, age, or condition, to maintain our own pleasant outlook. Instead, we should be actively encouraging felling mature trees and replanting with appropriate species. If we had followed that course 10 years ago, then our successors would have much more to thank us for and some good people who were killed by falling trees last week might still be with us.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAEME H. BELL,  
1 Dogmead Green,  
Woburn Garden City,  
Hertfordshire,  
February 1.

From Mr G. C. Bond

Sir, January 22 was St Vincent's Day — here, at least, with clear blue, sunny skies: Remember on St Vincent's Day, If that the sun his beams display, For its token, bright and clear, Of a prosperous weather all the year.

January 25 was the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, with great winds and rain: If the day of St Paul prove clear, Then shall be a happy year. If it chance to snow or rain, Then shall be dear all kind of grain.

But if high winds shall be aloft, Wars shall vex this realm full oft. And if thick mists make dark the sky Both beasts and fowls this year shall die.

The quotations are from the *Perpetual Almanack*, used in Elizabethan and Stuart times. Can any of your readers explain how our ancestors would have dealt with this apparent contradiction in weather forecasting when they were not able to blame the greenhouse effect?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY C. BOND,  
Old Forge House, Boat Lane,  
Hovingham, Nottingham.

## Deaths after ambulance delays

From Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham, Small Heath (Labour)

Sir, The distressing case of the death of Mr Billy Best (report, February 6) and the belief of his wife that serious delays on the part of the ambulance service in responding to repeated emergency calls were a contributory factor raise matters of great concern. These can only be pursued by means of an inquest and Mrs Best should report the matter to the appropriate coroner for investigation.

This is a subject which I have been pursuing since consulting in Birmingham stated on television about three weeks ago that they certainly knew of other cases where deaths could be attributed to a delayed response of the ambulance service. In response to my enquiries, the City of Birmingham coroner informed me that he was very mindful of those dangers and he would certainly make enquiries and, if required, conduct an inquest into the cause of such deaths if matters were reported to him, but no such cases had been so reported as yet.

On January 30 the Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr Peter Lloyd, in a written response to a question which I had tabled,

## Shades of blue

From Mr Praveen Moman

Sir, Your editorial on Conservative MEPs (January 24) disregards the legal and political reality of the Community today. It is not, as you imply, a matter of pooling sovereignty at some future date. The Treaty of Rome, the Single European Act, and the European Communities Act, together with individual legal measures, have already pooled sovereignty in a number of political and economic areas, in which Community law takes precedence over national law.

Future policy has to be based on the existing legal framework. In addition, we have to recognise the overwhelming consensus among the major political parties in other member states to further strengthen Community cooperation. The political changes in Eastern Europe have reinforced, in their view, the political role of the Community.

Too often in Britain the debate tends to concentrate on how to minimise existing Community policies; in other member states the focus is on further areas that the Community can embrace usefully to complement existing policies. Successive British MEPs and commissioners, in trying to discharge their respective roles, have had to take cognisance of both these positions.

In wishing to become effective players in the European machinery they have not, however, given up their national responsibilities. On the contrary, they have perhaps understood better than many

asking how many inquests had been held into deaths which might have been accelerated by reason of delay in response of the ambulance service or by the attendance of ambulances not carrying adequate resuscitation equipment, replied to the effect that "no information is collected centrally from which such cases could be identified".

The minister also confirmed that "there is an obligation at common law to report to the coroner any violent or unnatural death, or sudden death, the cause of which is unknown". Regrettably he went on to add that he had no evidence that this obligation is being neglected and therefore "we see no need for special steps to remind members of the public about it".

Since such statements are being made in the media with increasing frequency, one must regret that the politics of an emotional dispute seems to be clouding the judgements of ministers. It is of vital importance that where the cause of death of any citizen is other than by natural causes the facts should be reported to a coroner for proper investigation.

Yours sincerely,  
DENIS HOWELL,  
House of Commons.

national politicians that their country's interests can only be protected by participating in the *de facto* coalition politics of the Community.

It is ludicrous to claim that only Euro-mystics who unthinkingly accept all European initiatives wish to become MEPs. MEPs have probably as varied a background as MPs and often distinct views on different policies; nor are different selection procedures necessary. More pliant MEPs would not solve the central dilemma of having a constructive debate based on reality rather than wishful thinking and ignorance.

Yours faithfully,  
PRAVEEN MOMAN,  
27 Cadogan Square, SW1.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset East & Hampshire West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Robin Oakley, your Political Editor, in his report (January 27) on the meeting between Tory MEPs and the Prime Minister appears to have made the common error of assuming that all Conservative MEPs think exactly alike. We don't, any more than all Tory MPs think alike.

It is certainly not true to give the impression that all Conservative MEPs are "federalists". Some undoubtedly are; others are very close to the views expressed by the Prime Minister in her Bruges speech.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN CASSIDY,  
European Parliament,  
97-113 rue Belliard,  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium,  
January 29.

## Science 'brain drain'

From Dr J. Stephen Clark

Sir, Last July, in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, Mr Robert Jackson, the minister in charge of science, challenged British universities to provide evidence that the "brain drain" actually exists.

This week, British Scientists Abroad, an organisation formed to draw attention to the extent of the brain drain, is providing the evidence that Mr Jackson and the Government require — a petition, signed by over 1,600 scientists who are working abroad in academia or industry, that states categorically that the signatories are working overseas as a result of the poor conditions that scientists experience in Britain.

It is time Mr Jackson and the Government stopped issuing challenges and started to monitor carefully the emigration of scientists and engineers.

Yours faithfully,  
J. STEPHEN CLARK,  
(Research Fellow),  
Harvard University,  
Department of Chemistry,  
12 Oxford Street, Cambridge,  
Massachusetts 02138, USA,  
February 2.

## Top-up for unleaded

From Mr J. C. S. Blevis

Sir, I read with interest Kevin Eason's article (*Motoring*, January 26) and agree with his suggestion that the campaign for unleaded fuel needs a top-up.

I have been running my car on unleaded fuel for the past two years and have observed that when fuelled by super unleaded or four star the car travels approximately 20 per cent and 30 per cent respectively further than when fuelled by unleaded. This experience is at variance with your article.

If my experience is typical, as the current differential in price is approximately 5 per cent and represents a cost penalty against those using unleaded, perhaps the Government could consider adjusting the price of fuel in the Budget to reflect these facts.

If whilst implementing this, they were to keep the price of super unleaded stationary, reduce the price of unleaded as proposed, and increase the price of four star by 5 per cent more than the adjustment required to equate the fuels, a blow could be struck for the environment and against inflation, which might provide Kevin Eason's top-up.

Yours faithfully,  
J. C. S. BLEVIS,  
7 Cormont Road, SE5,  
January 29.

## 'Lost' Kipling play

From Mrs G. H. Newsom

Sir, Rudyard Kipling's one-act play, *The Harbour Watch*, cannot be said to have been lost (report, January 29). The play was never published, but the eminent bibliographer, Flora V. Livingston, has recorded that a type-written copy of it was deposited for copyright at the Library of Congress in April, 1913, and that there was "a similar copy in the British Museum". She also says, that the play was produced at the Royal Theatre on September 15, 1913, and again in London in 1920.

Further, there have been typescript copies of the play in the library of the Kipling Society for many years. They include the names of the cast and producer of the 1913 production.

It is doubtful that Kipling was the sole author, since his daughter, Elsie, claimed (in the epilogue to Charles Carrington's biography of Kipling) that she and her father together wrote the play. She must then have been about 16.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. NEWSOM,  
(Honorary Librarian),  
The Kipling Society,  
18 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

## Mind over matter

From Mr D. T. Lloyd

Sir, Philip Howard's reference (January 30) to a "Fijian woman" who took 34 years to complete crossword No. 673 was not to an ethnic Fijian, but to the expatriate wife of a colonial Civil Servant stationed in Fiji at the time.

Your edition of April 4, 1932, arrived in Fiji as part of the wrapping of a parcel containing a much-loved possession which had lain in the loft of a house in Suffolk for decades. In spite of its age and rough treatment it was perfectly readable.

Crossword 673 had been partly solved by a reader on a cold, bleak, spring day in Suffolk. It was completed by her daughter and son-in-law 34 years later over a cool, pre-dinner drink on a hot, humid evening in Suva.

Incidentally, the "Fijian woman's" sister and your correspondent found *The Times* crossword a stimulating after-supper diversion — but with separate copies of the paper. As the husband of the "Fijian woman" I remain, Sir, yours truly,  
D. T. LLOYD,  
Cotswold, Rags Lane, Woolpit,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

## MPs' secretaries paid by results

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, Geraldine Rodell (Friday Page, February 2) sadly omits the essence of a personal secretary's real contribution to the work of a serious member of Parliament. Because no two secretaries do precisely the same job, one inevitably speaks from personal experience. Some secretaries in the House are political assistants every bit as much as being a "secretary". They will certainly be amongst the highest paid.

A member surely rewards his staff according to the input directly relating to his own workload and the standard of efficiency with which his work is handled. Drafting replies to correspondence, researching for articles and speeches, taking initiatives at all levels, organizing the diary, handling telephone calls from often desperate constituents, knowing one's way round the local authority as well as Parliament and Whitehall are essential.

One is a loyal partner in a working relationship in both the heavily political and non-political work of an MP. Thus, not all members' secretaries and personal assistants are "poorly paid".

Three different offers of salary are reported to have been made by Simon Hughes, Chris Smith, and Ian Gilmour, but all three receive exactly the same parliamentary allowance and all three are equally entitled to allocate that resource as they wish.

That is, though, no basis whatsoever for seeking salary structures or scales, or for introducing pseudo-trade union negotiating techniques. Many of us would not tolerate being managed, since we are perfectly capable of negotiating our own salaries and in dealing with our own business affairs on a one-to-one basis.

Yours faithfully,  
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,  
House of Commons,  
February 5.

## Aggressive dogs

From Detective Chief Inspector Robert Denmark

Sir, Stressing the dangerous and aggressive nature of certain breeds of dog (letters, February 1) may actually increase their attractiveness to the type of person least suited to be in charge of them. Perhaps a Government "public safety" advertising campaign might be a good idea, pointing out that parading through areas of public recreation with a ferocious-looking animal invariably straining at the leash simply draws attention to an inadequate personality in the handler rather than compensating for it.

*Times* readers who resent this suggestion should perhaps examine closely their own reasons for wanting, or needing, to possess animals which many others see as threatening.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT DENMARK,  
The Coach House, Greenbank,  
Dolphinholme, Lancaster.

From Miss Pamela Singleton

Sir, I wholeheartedly agree with Peter Bowness (February 1) on the need to legislate for the control of Rottweiler dogs. However, there are many pitfalls in legislating against dangerous dogs in themselves, for example, evasion of injunctions against a specific breed by cross-breeding.

The way forward would seem to be the licensing of individual owners rather than the dogs themselves. This type of legislation is already established for the control of other potentially dangerous possessions such as cars, guns, knives etc. The problem is of enforcement and financing such schemes.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,  
PAMELA SINGLETON,  
CitiVet (Veterinary Surgeons),  
249/251 Mile End Road, E1,  
February 1.

## A knotty question

From Mr C. H. Rolph

Sir, People are always saying that women don't have an Adam's apple. Now Mr John Taylor, the editor of *British Style*, says it again (January 27). The tie, like the cravat, he says, "is designed to hide from public disapprobation the Adam's apple", and he adds that women escape this shameful necessity by simply not having one.

Of course they've got one. Like mine and his it's a bit of the thyroid cartilage on the larynx at the front of the neck, smaller and less conspicuous than ours (as a rule) because a woman's larynx is designed to produce a higher note, a bit more like a piccolo. It's there all the time, and it, too, goes up and down.

We've all got that guilty bit of apple. The difference was the very beginning of artfulness and feminine decoy.

Yours sincerely,  
C. H. ROLPH,  
33 Hitherwood,  
Cranleigh, Surrey.

## Point of order

From Mr David Edward

Sir, The House of Commons has been "all-seater" for some time now. To the best of my knowledge this has resulted in no improvement in crowd behaviour whatsoever.

Yours etc.,  
DAVID EDWARD,  
45 Montpelier Grove,  
Kenilworth, NWS,  
February 1.











## HEALTH

**Do men suffer a 'male menopause' and is hormone replacement therapy the answer?**  
**Liz Hodgkinson reports**

**H**ormone replacement therapy for women has become an accepted, if still controversial, medical treatment. But what about HRT for men? Medical orthodoxy has maintained that there is no such thing as a male menopause, and nothing in male physiology to compare with the sudden shutting down of hormonal production in women. Men can produce enough male hormone to father children into extreme old age, whereas women end their child-bearing years at around 50.

But Dr Malcolm Carruthers, who has become well known for his view that vasectomy causes ageing and that stress is the main cause of heart disease, disagrees with the orthodox viewpoint. He believes there is evidence that men have a "viropause" corresponding to the female menopause, and that lack of hormonal production in men can produce exactly the same symptoms that women suffer — night sweats, hot flushes, depression, lack of drive (including sex drive), circulatory problems and a feeling of being "over the hill".

And just as female hormone replacement can help many women over the menopause, male hormone replacement can help men cope with the physical, mental and emotional problems of mid-life, according to Carruthers.

This week he opened Britain's first private HRT clinic for men. It treats tired, depressed, middle-aged men with the male hormone, testosterone. The idea is to restore the drive and ambition that life seems to have knocked out of them.

In particular, Carruthers says, testosterone can improve blood circulation and, to some extent, halt the ageing process, enabling men to stay young, virile and active for longer. "It is a controversial area," Carruthers says, "but there is research, published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, which indicates that lack of testosterone could be a contributory factor in heart and circulatory problems."

Today, we know that healthy eating and regular exercise can contribute much towards our general health — especially as the years go by!

Since early civilisations, garlic has been prized for its many health benefits. Now modern science is proving that there is fact behind these legends, and that taken regularly, garlic may help maintain good health.

In fact Höfels Garlic Pearles not only offer all the general health benefits of garlic, but are also considered to be an ideal, traditional herbal remedy for coughs, colds and catarrh. Little wonder then, that more and more people are turning to the tried and trusted name of Höfels.

**HÖFELS — GARLIC SPECIALISTS**

You may be one of the many people who regularly use garlic to add flavour to their cooking. However, in these quantities, one to three cloves per family dish, the full benefits of garlic may not be felt.

Höfels (pronounced Hoe-fells) have been concentrating on garlic for over 60 years. We are the manufacturers of Britain's best selling range of garlic pearles, and have perfected a technique of producing "essential oil" of garlic in easy one-a-day pearles.

**"ESSENTIAL OIL" — NATURAL GARLIC POWER**

Each drop of Höfels essential oil of garlic is



## Ageing man or Superman?

Carruthers' interest in male HRT began about 12 years ago when he met Jens Moller, a Danish doctor, who claimed that in his clinic he was achieving remarkable results by administering testosterone to men with severe diseases of the leg arteries. In some cases, the treatment had even reversed gangrene.

"I went over to see him," Carruthers says, "and learnt that Moller believed stress was a factor in all circulatory diseases. His belief was that extra doses of male hormone could overcome this to some extent, and slow down the ageing process. And we know now that you are only as old as your arteries."

Carruthers admits that his is a lone voice in the British medical profession. At present, testosterone is given medically to young men only if they are not producing their own. The treatment is available in a limited capacity on

the NHS. Apart from this, testosterone is given only to sex-change patients. "For a long time," Carruthers says, "there was just no good research showing that prolonged stress could substantially reduce the production of the male hormone, and that this lack could cause both mental and physical problems."

**N**ow, he says, research carried out at Syracuse University, in the United States, has shown that when male tennis players win, they produce an enormous surge of testosterone, "but when they lose, production goes right down."

"Experiments with airline pilots in Argentina have shown that when they are exposed to very loud noises in aircraft turbine factories, their production of testosterone is halved. It seems that stress of

all kinds can diminish production of male hormone."

Also, he says, testosterone is closely connected to the amount of drive a person has — and not just sex drive. "I have been treating people under severe stress for many years, and usually by the time they come to see me they feel completely burnt out."

"They may have been made redundant or superseded at work, or been through a difficult divorce. Their problems are often made worse by excessive alcohol intake, and they have certainly lost their sex drive. By the beginning of this year, I felt there was enough medical evidence to justify giving male hormone to combat stress and circulatory problems."

Patients attending Carruthers's Harley Street clinic are given a battery of biochemical tests, and doses of male hormone are individually tailored, just as HRT is

for women. "My own research is now showing that follicle-stimulating hormone, the hallmark of the menopause in women, is also produced in large quantities by middle-aged men."

Carruthers believes that the main difference between the menopause and the "viropause" is that with men there is a far wider range of ages.

As with female HRT, administering testosterone is not without problems. Large doses have been associated with liver damage, and there have been reports that some synthetic forms of testosterone can worsen a heart condition.

In Denmark, a number of elderly people given testosterone in hospital for circulatory problems developed an unstable sex drive. It also got a bad name a few years ago when certain fringe doctors recommended it as an elixir of youth, along with monkey glands and sheep foetuses.

Gordon Williams, a consultant urologist at London's Hammersmith Hospital who specializes in treating male impotence, is against the idea. "We would never give testosterone to an impotent man because it increases libido without being able to do anything about performance," he says.

"There is certainly no justification for giving testosterone for impotence. As for the wider implications at the moment there is simply no evidence available. The only men being medically treated with testosterone are those who, because of accident or injury, are completely unable to make their own."

"The main problem with giving testosterone long-term is its association with liver damage. Also, it may stimulate a prostate tumour to grow. The incidence of prostate cancer is increasing, particularly among young men."

Williams disputes the evidence of a male menopause. "There is no sudden cessation of hormone production as men get older, although there is usually a dramatic falling off in sexual desire and ability to perform. Many men see this as natural and never worry about it at all. And I must say that usually their wives are delighted."

I've been a National Hunt jockey for seven seasons. I am 25, 5ft 8in and usually weigh just under 10 stone, which is about average for a jump jockey. I try to eat as normally as I can, though not excessively. For breakfast I'll have a cup of tea or coffee without sugar, and a couple of slices of wholemeal toast. I might have a cup of coffee with a couple of sugars for energy in the afternoon, maybe a sandwich, then in the evenings I like fish, chicken, the odd steak, or lamb chops. My wife, Carol, doesn't do potatoes as a rule, but we have plenty of other vegetables.

Racing six days a week now, we're on the scales every day and we know how much our weight varies. Some weekends I can put on four or five pounds. If I'm light going into the weekend, I only have to go out for a meal and I might put on four or five pounds.

One year I went on holiday, let it go a bit through the summer and went up to over 11 stone. Then I did find it hard getting it down, and hard keeping it down as well. Since then, touch wood, my weight's been quite good, and it hasn't been too hard to keep under control.

I drink alcohol, but not to excess. Saturday nights we'll go out for a meal or there might be a party, and I may have some wine or the occasional lager or scotch.

We're riding out most

## Holes in the head

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

As the Queen travels the world, her expression of apparent interest may be concealing a splitting headache, for she is perhaps our best-known sufferer from sinusitis, which is one of the commonest causes of headache and facial pain. Another monarch, King Hussein, has had even more severe problems from sinusitis and has undergone surgery, the Caldwell-Luc operation, in an attempt to overcome it. Were it not for the sinuses — cavities in the bones of the skull — our heads would be so heavy that it would be difficult to hold them erect for any length of time without the neck muscles suffering unbearable strain. The saving in weight, and the resonance the sinuses give to the voice, are the advantages of hollow skull bones. But these are bought at a cost, for when the openings (the ostia) to the sinuses become blocked, the cavities fill with fluid which, once infected, causes sinusitis.

Traditionally sinusitis has been treated with antibiotics in the hope that once the inflammation around the ostia is relieved the sinuses will drain. If they do not, the surgeon resorts to sinus washouts, and if these fail to the

Caldwell-Luc operation, in which the sinus is penetrated through an incision in the upper gum. A few years ago German and Austrian surgeons started to ex-

plore the sinuses through an endoscope, an illuminated tube similar to the arthroscope with which orthopaedic surgeons can peer into joints. The Americans followed, and in 1988 a unit was established at the University College and Middlesex Hospital School of Medicine in London. Sinus endoscopy is now being used for diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the sinuses. Recent research has added to our knowledge of the way in which sinuses drain to the nose down narrow clefts in the ethmoid bone. The pattern of these clefts, the ostiomeatal complex, varies from person to person, and is as intricate and delicate as the delta of a large river.

When operating with an endoscope, usually under local anaesthesia, the surgeon, who needs a detailed knowledge of nasal anatomy, can localize the places in the ostiomeatal complex where the free flow of fluid is obstructed; once this is cleared, inflammation subsides and the mucosa regenerates.

### Lip repairs

When Neil Carter was too depressed by salmonella in his laying birds to look after his son, Christopher, his wife played happily with the boy instead. An everyday story with a difference, for Christopher was born with a hare lip and was rejected by his mother. Now that the deformity has been repaired, all is forgotten.

The Archers reflects the experience of Barry Jones, the plastic surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital, who has found that after repair parental rejection disappears. For this reason, and because early surgery lessens the deformity of the palate, babies at an increasing number of hospitals have the operation within a day or two of birth.

Given the good results which this regime achieves at only minimal hazard to the child, and without the mother having to be subjected to major surgery, Jones thinks that it is difficult in the present state of medical knowledge to justify in utero cosmetic surgery, even though undertaking such surgery before the 22nd week of pregnancy might render any scar invisible.

Operating so early in pregnancy would carry an appreciable risk of inducing a miscarriage (even amniocentesis increases this risk by 1 per cent), and any damage to the child might be so subtle that it would not become

apparent until years later, when a potential Bellini scholar fails the GCSE. The uncertainty of diagnosis makes early surgery difficult, for ultrasound is an inexact science, dependent on the skills of the radiologist and the quality of the machine. Furthermore it has not been Jones's experience, as others have claimed, that mothers want an abortion once they know that their child has a hare lip; he has found that they respond to reassurance that it will be repaired a couple of days after birth.

Advances in surgical knowledge may change the balance in the present equation; if a foetus could be devised and used with such safety that abortions were not induced, and the mother was saved the major surgery, early surgery might become acceptable; conversely, if the growth factors present in the foetus which limit scarring could be isolated, it might be possible to use them after neonatal surgery and thereby prevent even a tiny scar.

### Aids and age

When older people talk of Aids they often reject that they were able to live their lives uninhibited by the thought of an incurable, sexually transmitted disease, their conversation reinforcing the belief of any younger people present that sex and its diseases are confined to the under-fifties.

## Keeping one jump ahead



RICHARD DUNWOODY

**BREATHING SPACE**  
I'm riding Desert Orchid this season. He always has top weight in handicap, and in a race he's very straightforward. I wouldn't say that racing is the healthiest sport, but it's a physical job, so you've got to be as physically capable as you can be.

I've been a National Hunt jockey for seven seasons. I am 25, 5ft 8in and usually weigh just under 10 stone, which is about average for a jump jockey. I try to eat as normally as I can, though not excessively. For breakfast I'll have a cup of tea or coffee without sugar, and a couple of slices of wholemeal toast. I might have a cup of coffee with a couple of sugars for energy in the afternoon, maybe a sandwich, then in the evenings I like fish, chicken, the odd steak, or lamb chops. My wife, Carol, doesn't do potatoes as a rule, but we have plenty of other vegetables.

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**THE TIMES**  
THE MONEY  
REVIEW  
SPORT & TRAVEL & LEISURE

## Going for gold

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BOOKS

Peter Ackroyd reviews the latest work on our national icon, whom we recreate to suit our purposes

# A bard of old putty

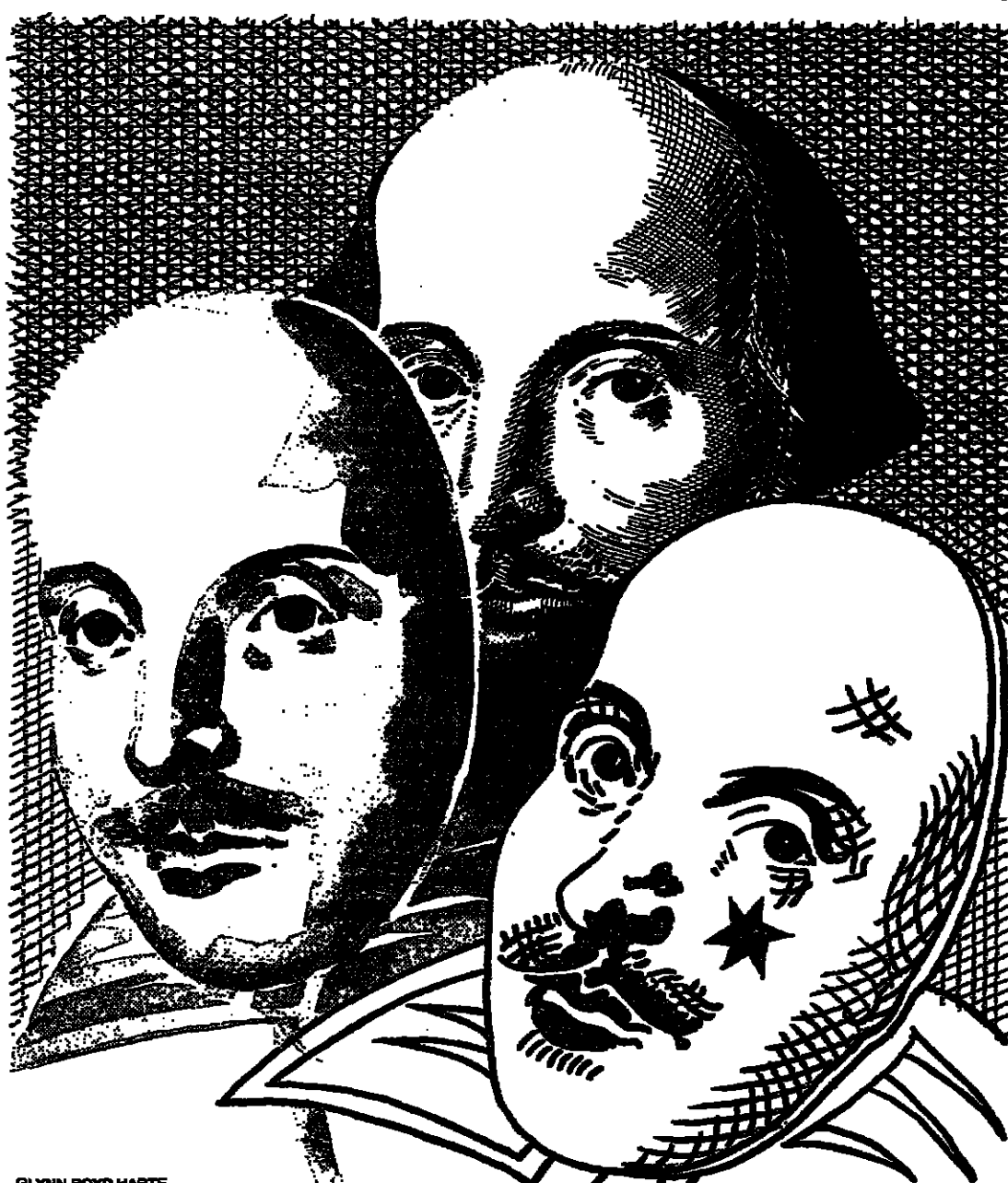
It has always seemed absurd that at the end of *Desert Island Discs* each week's Crusoe is summarily dispatched into oblivion with editions of Shakespeare and the Bible. What if the putative castaway did not want Shakespeare at all? There could have been room beside his hammock for the collected works of Henry James or Sir Thomas Browne instead. And why in any case should the writings of a 16th-century dramatist be associated with the truths of Christian revelation? Gary Taylor, in this suggestive study, provides a variety of answers. He is concerned with the cultural transmission of Shakespeare, with what he calls the "mechanisms of cultural renown" — in other words with "Shakespeare" as we have come to know him, complete with the vague penumbra of cadences and quotations and characters and scenes that comprise his contemporary reputation.

*Reinventing Shakespeare* is a fascinating account of culture as market, a place of business as well as entertainment, the engine of those processes through which name or reputation are secured and manipulated. Taylor sees Shakespeare in particular as the emblem of a primarily conservative and hierarchical culture, a talisman borne aloft in the face of threatening social or civic chaos, a form of "nostalgic assurance", and, in our own time, a defence against threatened national identity as well as a potent weapon in the commercial quest of publishers or theatrical companies for market and audiences. The book will no doubt therefore offend those who are engaged in just such activities while pretending to altruism of the more egregious sort, and it will no doubt also disturb those who picture Genius, like some angel on a Gothic pedestal, soaring into another sphere quite apart from all earthly considerations. But those who want to

**REINVENTING SHAKESPEARE**  
A Cultural History from the Restoration to the Present  
By Gary Taylor  
The Hogarth Press, £18

know how great writing enters the commercial and theatrical circumstances of the day will derive great profit from Taylor's study. Shakespeare was restored at the Restoration, and was used as a weapon by William Davenant in his fight against the rival company of Thomas Killigrew; the dramatist's reputation was then guided by the bookseller Jacob Tonson, and by a succession of combative editors who were more concerned with the proper notation of their own glories. In the 18th century Shakespeare became celebrated once more at a time of burgeoning nationalism and conservatism. In all cases Shakespeare's fame depended as much upon the political conditions and cultural imperatives of the time as upon his genuine worth as a writer.

But it was not until the later stages of the 20th century, when the academic industry came into its own, that the angel really fell to earth and Shakespeare was enthroned beneath the Mountain of Dullness. In recent decades interpretation has followed interpretation, just as edition upon edition. And if one of the salient facts of the 20th-century university has been the specialization of literary studies in order to provide more and more jobs for the expanding number of academic labourers, so in this same period Shakespeare has been praised for his *difficulty*, his *ambiguity*, his *complexity* — characteristics which could then only be deciphered by the expert



GLYNIS BOYD HARTE

critic. Of course Taylor himself is an associate professor somewhere in America, and his account of the plays changes continually as Shakespeare is rewritten by one generation after another.

And rewritten, sometimes, in a literal sense. For what are we left with at the end of this intriguing survey? A Shakespeare whose spelling and punctuation are to a large extent the invention of composers; whose texts and scenes have been radically altered or reconstructed by the plethora of editors who used him for their own cultural purposes; whose characters and dialogue have been transformed by the vainglorious expedients of generations of actors. This should be added to the portrait of a dramatist who did not hesitate to steal the lines and plots of others; who rewrote lost plays of forgotten playwrights when the opportunity presented itself. Truly

a Shakespeare who, at the end of the 20th century, is as appropriate to the whole new science of chaos as ever he was to Renaissance cosmology. In fact the whole history of cultural accommodation and transmission, as described in this book, suggests that we really no longer know what real value to ascribe to Shakespeare's plays. He has become so much a national, cultural, and academic icon that there is no critical vocabulary with which to describe him or by which he can be judged. There is a further conclusion to be drawn from *Reinventing Shakespeare*: by convincingly demonstrating the instability and relativity of even the most ferociously espoused critical values, Gary Taylor presents a dramatist who has become not valueless, but value-free. Will this be the Shakespeare of the next century?

The book, however, are the sections relating to Mandela's first wife, Evelyn, and his second wife Winnie, who has become almost as well known as her husband as a result of the government's fear of her. Related with documentary objectivity is the way in which Winnie's life became an era of letters never received, visits made impossible, police harassment, arrests, court appearances, slander. *Higher Than Hope* is a tribute to the Mandelas' extraordinary Christian fortitude and maturity. The government's attempt to break them consisted not just of crude violence and intimidation, but also of squeezing the slender economic base of the family by preventing Winnie from working. Even more than Nelson, she deserves recognition for keeping all the Mandelas — and much of the freedom struggle — going. It is not surprising that the Mandelas have come to symbolize a people who have been systematically harassed, beaten, starved, and denied human rights, but who have succeeded in maintaining human dignity. The true test for the Mandelas, however, will come when their country is finally able to enter the community of free and democratic nations.

# Incongruences of your everyday living

FICTION

Anne Barnes

**IN TRANSIT**  
By Mavis Gallant  
Faber, £12.99

**THE GREEK INTERPRETER**  
By Max Davidson  
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95

**THE BLACKBIRD'S SONG**  
By Pauline Holdstock  
Peter Halban, £10.95

**ON HEROES AND TOMBS**  
By Ernesto Sabato  
Translated by Helen R. Lane  
Cape, £13.95

The characters in Mavis Gallant's short stories are not so much in transit as fixed in places where they don't belong. They are living in another country, or with people who are unsympathetic, or with a close relation whom they cannot understand. In one story, a small boy, recovering in hospital from a car crash which has killed both his parents, hears the whispering around him but can make no sense of the trite half truths and phrases meant to jolly him along. In another, a young girl lured by the promise of a glitzy life of leisure and sunlight in Italy, has married a much older man, only to find herself longing for grass instead of cacti, and the bustle of English gentility instead of Mediterranean idleness. In these stories there are no solutions, no careful structures to underline or measure conspicuous success or failure in the way people run their lives. Often someone is trying hard to break away from alien surroundings, but the moment of escape is not the main point. The progress from one stage to another is smooth and elegant, passing through illumination and bafflement, and leaving the outcome ambiguous.

Max Davidson is less concerned with elegance, and more intent on taking aim at certain targets. In his absurd story about *The Greek Interpreter* he sets up an international conference which is going off the rails in Bangkok, thereby opening up a number of old, but still lively, jokes. The central joke is the conference itself — and the conference mentality. The author makes full use of the idea of a room full of pompous people with their pockets bulging with eloquent speeches, bogged down in points of order and incomprehensible translations. The American senator is a familiar figure against this backdrop, as he juggles with human rights, while protecting his own shady source of private income. Max Davidson manages to fold into the narrative various message parables, murder plots, dirty tricks, and drug smugglers; and if the end is a bit puzzling, it doesn't really matter because there is a lot of action along the way.

In contrast, *The Blackbird's Song* presents real violence in its barest form. Pauline Holdstock describes a journey made by Emily and William, their young son and unpredictable friend Martha across the plains of northern China. They are Christian missionaries, and it is June 1900 — a year of terrible drought. The restless country people, seeing their crops ruined and looking for the cause, decide it is the "foreigners" who have brought this disaster upon them. For Emily

and William, beaten and imprisoned, the conventional boundaries between faith and doubt no longer hold. What seemed to be strength is weakness, and what might have been termed courage now seems the clearest expression of fear. Aware of these contradictions, stripped of their possessions and the protection of the civilized world, they must face their feelings about themselves and each other with precision and restraint. The bleakness of the author's prose and the compressed power of her observation make this an extraordinary first novel on the interplay of anger, love, and duty.

Ernesto Sabato's dissertation *On Heroes and Tombs* presents a different view of love and suffering. It is a great rambling exploration of various sorts of obsession — sexual, philosophical, political — set against a background of nationalist traditions and class values in the confused social world of Argentina in the 1950s. Alejandra is a young girl swept by deep uncertainty, which she conceals beneath a veneer of self-sufficiency. This blend of confidence and doubt makes her the focus of the obsessions of three very different men. For Martin, her rather bedraggled young lover, she is a symbol of his highest ideals, his native land, his yearning for love. To her father she symbolizes mysterious forces linked to his preoccupations with blindness and evil. To her mother's ex-lover she is a symbol of what can never be attained and therefore never defiled. Sabato explores the intertwined obsessions in labyrinthine detail. It is a remarkable assortment of ideas that beat their way through a changing narrative style. One page might almost have been written by Proust, then the next is like a school history book. Strange that they work so well together.

## NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

**The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Volume 5, 1851-1855**, edited by Frederick Burkhardt and Sydney Smith (Cambridge, £32.50) He throws himself into his Species Theory, with frequent posts around the globe. **From Homer to Tragedy, The Art of Allusion in Greek Poetry**, by Richard Garner (Routledge, £30) Systematic echoes, references, quotes. **The Language of the Goddesses**, by Marija Gimbutas (Thames & Hudson, £29.95) European matriarchal prehistoric roots exposed. **Music and Medicine**, Medical profiles of great composers, by John O'Shea (Dent, £18.95) Why did Schubert wear a wig? What did Mozart's ear really look like? What was the curse of the Mendelssohns? Which scandalous violinist always wore flannel underwear? Approaching musicians idiosyncratically by way of their ailments and crochets. **The Photographic Work of Calvert Richard Jones**, by Rollin Buckman (HMSO, £30) Welsh founding father of snapping, with 400 calotypes.

## More women are victims of intestacy than divorce.

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to face the horrors of intestacy — the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a will.

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Beware: this book is patchy, verbose, badly organized; but it may well change your view of South Africa. It is written by a Natal University Professor of Sociology at the request of Mandela. The two families are friends of long standing, but the fact that Mandela asked an Indian to write his biography, in preference to many fine black writers, is not without political significance. In spite of all the mistreatment of nearly three decades in South African prisons, Mandela holds to an inspiring ideal of international humanitarianism. Unable to get much from Mandela himself, Meer was forced to rely almost entirely on the surviving letters and diaries of Mandela to his fellow activists, and on conversations with Mandela's family, friends, and acquaintances. The effect is much like trying to look into someone's eyes through a hall of mirrors.

However, Meer did not have the option of an alternative method, and the value of *Higher Than Hope* lies in the mass of material it brings to us: details of the BOSS plan to eliminate Mandela, foiled by British intelligence services' threat to blow the whistle; the nature of Mandela's life under-

## Keeping alive inside

Prabhu Gupta

HIGHER THAN HOPE

By Fatima Meer  
Hamish Hamilton, £15.99

ground; Mandela's discovery of other parts of Africa in 1962, when he slipped out of the country without authorization.

What is amazing and captivating about Mandela is his irrepressible zeal for life after half a long lifetime in solitary confinement. In one letter to Winnie, he writes of "the simple things in life I have missed most... boxing tournaments, music festivals... and the greatest of all moments — closing the bedroom door". What is most compelling about

the book, however, are the sections relating to Mandela's first wife, Evelyn, and his second wife Winnie, who has become almost as well known as her husband as a result of the government's fear of her. Related with documentary objectivity is the way in which Winnie's life became an era of letters never received, visits made impossible, police harassment, arrests, court appearances, slander.

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## Spook in the database

Michael Hartland

THE CUCKOO'S EGG

By Clifford Stoll  
The Bodley Head, £12.95

The main difference between a thriller and real-life espionage, is that now more than 70 per cent of the koshier stuff is done by computer. The interception of communications may be an electronic miracle, but thin material for a novel. Inanimate boxes of wire and chips neither fall in love nor betray each other, so spy writers steer clear of them. *The Cuckoo's Egg* proves them wrong.

In 1986 Clifford Stoll was a young astronomer and computer whizz-kid at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, California, involved in Star Wars, but so junior that his office was in a basement with no windows. One day he noticed a 75 per cent loss on his computer accounts. Curious, he found that his system had been broken into —

then, after weeks of searching, that someone was using it to access top secret databases.

Stoll's main interest in life was his love affair with law student Martha. He was not into politics or patriotism, but realized that something murky was going on, and reported it. The authorities took one look at his long hair and jeans — and ignored him. It was like witnessing a murder, going to the police and being treated as a nut.

Against every inclination, Clifford Stoll roused himself from the sybaritic life of San Francisco Bay and set traps for the hacker, who trespassed when Stoll was in the shower with his girlfriend. Gradually he proved that his unseen enemy was syphoning off some of the most sensitive military material in the United States: the targeting and capability of nuclear and chemical weapons, overseas bases, everything. Reluctantly the FBI and National Security Agency became involved, although they still mistrusted him. The details of his counter-hacking are intriguing if you are into computers; they may

not quite tell you how to bust into the Nat West with an Amstrad, but they come pretty close. Even if computers bore you to tears, it's a robust and very funny story of a laid-back fella kicking pompous authority into action.

At the end it turns into a real thriller. After three years of frustration, Stoll tracked his opponent to West Germany, and suddenly everyone took him seriously. On March 2, 1989 the German police arrested Markus Hess of Hanover and four others for espionage. They were all small-time crooks, charged with selling the results of their hacking to the KGB in East Berlin. The haemorrhage of secrets stopped. Triumphant Stoll married Martha, and moved to an office with a window.

*The Cuckoo's Egg* leaves you with two powerful impressions. First, the youth of everyone concerned — Stoll and Hess were both in their mid-twenties — and the ease with which the hacking was done. Does the spread of online computers mean that in future nothing can be genuinely secure? Second, even hi-tech espionage can be dangerous. Three of the hackers are in jail awaiting trial. Two co-operated with the police to avoid prosecution — of whom one was found burnt to death by petrol in a forest outside Hanover. Nobody seemed surprised that there was no suicide note.

On Saturday: Glendinning on the missionary business, Louis Heren on Alan Moorehead, military uniforms, jazz age, Boswell, crime

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SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## THE ARTS

## Maverick pleasures

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

I am accused by the BBC Music and Arts Department, in our recent correspondence columns, of being less than charitable toward their total lack of a prime-time mass-audience regular equivalent of *The South Bank Show*. Compared to this, *The Late Show* is not so much a rival as an insouciant intellectual's ghetto, with such occasional highlights as Pinter-reading-Rushdie in an outside broadcast on Tuesday. It needs to be added that the BBC can and does come up with the occasional superlative monthly special.

Last night's *Bookmark* on BBC 2 was one such: the story of Miron Grindea, a Romanian publisher, who 50 years ago crashed his way through the Customs barriers at Dover and then set up *Adam*, a magazine. Now surviving the half-century against all possible odds, the magazine has published Picasso, Shaw, Eliot, Dali, Cocteau, Churchill and Benjamin Britten, along with less distinguished columnists.

With diffidence and considerable charm, John Wells hosted a programme which looked at the curious obsession Grindea has had with the snapping-up of literary trifles. Whether getting Cocteau to review Piaz ("a lizard among the ruins") or telling Frederic Raphael what to write next, or asking Churchill to review Bernard Shaw, or simply printing Agatha Christie's refusal to write for him, Grindea remains an extraordinary mix of archivist, promoter, and literary detective. He was at his absolute best when locating in Brighton a dying French waiter who could bear witness to Marcel Proust's habit of picking up young men in restaurants and buying them decent suits for services rendered.

By the end of Nadia Haggan's superb documentary, one felt one had discovered another entire secret floor of the London Library, and the only failure was in neglecting to tell us where back numbers of *Adam* could be purchased. Presumably from their address in the London telephone directory.

Granada's *El CID* was off to an extremely strong start last night with Alfred Molina and John Bird, as a couple of disenchanted policemen starting a new life on the Costa del Sol. An opening script by Chris Kelly and Iain Roy sustained a high level of running gags about one-armed bandits and an informer known as Mo the Grass. The wonderful world-weariness of Molina and the ingenuous, wry dejection of Bird will make them one of the most compulsively watchable double-acts of the season, just as long as their many writers can find enough to keep them in trouble on the Costa del Sol. Any series with a title like this, but not involving Charlton Heston, deserves an award.

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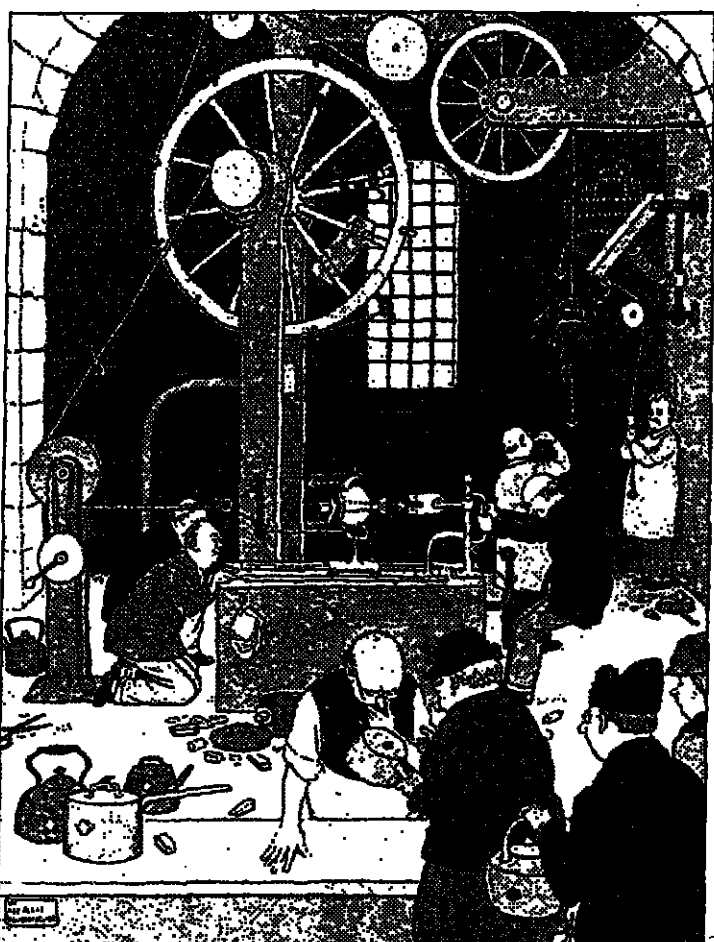
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**the Enterprise Initiative**

Have you heard the one about setting up a National Gallery of Comic Art? Joseph Williams proposes it, and he is not joking



"Magnetic apparatus for putting square pegs into round holes", by W. Heath Robinson: is a national comic art gallery so impracticable?

## A home for humour

They humiliate governments, they change social trends, they peel open the most uncomfortable truths of human nature. Yet cartoons, caricatures and comic drawings are undervalued as works of art. It is a distortion which cartoonists themselves might easily put on paper.

This injustice, however, may be righted with the proposed setting up of a National Gallery of Comic Art. To sceptics, the idea looks as impracticable as a Heath Robinson contraption; but a dedicated set of experts and devotees is convinced that a museum devoted to the pillory of human weakness is long overdue.

With the price of paintings soaring in the auction houses, the humble cartoon could proffer a refreshing alternative. Comic art is relatively cheap at the moment, yet there are few private collectors in the country. One of them is Simon Heneghe, consultant to the Books Department at Sotheby's. He is a votary of nonsense humour, and active in the attempt to found a museum. "I'd donate part of my collection, comprising mostly British cartoons on social themes. But the museum would

ideally cover all branches and periods. And we'd hold competitions and lectures, to involve the public. It wouldn't be static."

Supporting him are cartoonists Mel Calman and Nick Garland, and others from the arts world, such as David Putnam and Fay Weldon. Contributions would come from the University of Kent, which stores an impressive selection of comic art - not displayed, through lack of space. It is hoped that the Victoria and Albert Museum might lend some of its collection (also, sadly, locked up).

The Arts Council has had its sense of humour tickled too: it may be interested, once the specific requirements are laid down. Funding remains the main problem. A recent auction of cartoons was helpful, and the organizers are seeking a vital fillip from larger companies such as Guinness.

Bulgaria already boasts a museum called the House of Humour and Satire, which sounds like the comic equivalent of the Chamber of Horrors. Its *raison d'être*, in a country long labouring under the yoke of austerity, is that cartoons are indispensable to the survival of humanity. Heneghe believes that this is too heavy-handed a

philosophy, but he is convinced of the importance of a British National Museum: "Without it, works will get lost, destroyed and sold. On top of being fine examples of art, they are relevant politically and socially. David Low's cartoons infuriated Hitler, and Napoleon claimed he'd give anything to have a cartoonist like Gillray on his side."

People have loved and feared the fulminations of cartoonists. What Gillray captured, in his caricatures of Pitt and King George III, was the essence of the person. By distortion, paradoxically, the truth is sharpened. The caricaturist Rowlandson sticks his pen like a dart in our foibles, and twists out laughter as painful recognition.

Of course the humour may be genial, as in H.M. Bateman's affectionately titled picture *The Man Who Coughed at the First Night*, where a ridiculous social convention is broken, and thus lampooned. Humour may be gentle and universal, as in Daumier's *The Too Hot Bath*: a little man with a nightcap easing himself into a squalid bathtub, his misery face

screwing up into a bunch of masterful penstrokes. And humour may be positively savage: from the frightening profligacy depicted by Hogarth to the hideous and twisted creations of Goya.

Comic art deserves as much attention as comic literature. The distorting glass of Fielding, through which he sees the corruption of the world, is the same one used by great satirical artists, but for a different medium. Had Dickens been an artist, one feels that he would have sketched his grotesque characters exactly as Cruikshank did, so appropriate are the drawings.

Why, then, has there not been a gallery up till now? Heneghe believes that cartoonists are not always easy collaborators: "They're eccentrics - they even have difficulty in coming to meetings." Like clowns and fools - wiser than the rest of us, but often lonely and sensitive - cartoonists tend towards introversion: typical of Tenniel, Pont and Leech. It was said of Vicky, that he had too much feeling for one man. What cartoonists should start drawing now, if their museum is to get off the ground, is our attention.

## Is it a horrorshow tollchock? I'm afraid not

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

A Clockwork Orange

2004

Barbican

Let me come straight to the main question posed by Anthony Burgess's much-bruited adaptation of his celebrated novel. Is it a *gratchny* *vonny* play which this critic veck must *horrorshow tollchock*, or a *yumyumyum* lovely shooshying to the gulliver and glazzies? In 1990 English as opposed to 2004 newspeak, is it forgettable tosh, or intellectually and visually enjoyable?

But here I must do something temperamental and verbally alien to the savage protagonist of *A Clockwork Orange*, who spouts this bizarre yet comprehensible blend of rhyming slang, ur-Russian, and punk rhetoric. I must shilly-shally a bit.

Yes, the play is sometimes coarsely acted, gratuitously showy, awkwardly poised between the real and surreal, plonkingly didactic, and lacking in those essential ingredients, toughness and horror. Yet, it is also fluent, inventive, mentally stimulating and even more timely than in 1962, when Burgess penned it.

The story involves teenage Alex, who rapes, plunders and pulverizes his way to prison, where he is transformed by aversion therapy. Sex, violence, and the sound of his beloved Beetho-

ven now leave him creased with cramps. Yet somehow he survives both the callous reactionaries and the sentimental liberals. He is, Burgess provocatively suggests, neither monster nor misunderstood boy: just another male animal brutally growing up.

Burgess adds to his tale a report of the machine-gunning of blacks in the East End, but is otherwise faithful to the original, as well he might be. We can hardly say it is not topical, not all-out war between the Crips and the Bloods in LA, not with eight-year-olds being found with guns in Detroit schools. And who can say our inner cities won't eventually see the spiralling violence, teenage thugs versus hoodlum police, Burgess describes?

Yet finally he is less concerned with penology than with metaphysics. To what extent is it right

to remove someone's moral autonomy for society's sake? Is enforced virtue really virtue? Can someone be called good if he does not have a capacity for evil? Can good exist without evil?

Those are not altogether abstract problems either, not when castration is sometimes seriously suggested as a cure for sex offenders. But they do come across a bit clunkily at the Barbican. At one point a ruffled Graham Greene cleric materializes above the curved red Meccano surrounding the stage to incant, "It's all a matter of freedom of choice, we have a right to choose evil".

There is too much earnest opining in Ron Daniels's production; but also, paradoxically, too much spectacle. The depressing milk-bar where Alex does not risk the accusation faced by the more charismatic Malcolm McDowell in Kubrick's movie, of glamorizing evil.

But he still is not frightening enough. Nor, indeed, is the show as a whole. It should appeal us with the prospect of perils to come, and it just does not. The two Daniels, Ron and Phil, finally lack danger: we need a bit more terror, a little more lion in their urban cage.

Arlene Phillips of *Hot Gossip*. The trouble is that Ron Daniels has not integrated her effects into the mean, hard world he also wants to evoke. One impression you get is of an uneasy mix of fantasy and street naturalism, intermittently backed by the pulsations and wails of the rock composed by Bono and Edge of U2. Another is of a play not sure whether it is also a musical show.

Perhaps this indecisiveness explains the acting, which is unusually broad for the RSC. Among the few who inject a little finesse are Patrick Brennan, Francis Mark Johnson and, luckily, Phil Daniels, with his pale face, bowler, black wig and cute jacket. Looking like a mix of Chaplin, Fauntleroy and Richard III, and radiating a querulous slyness, his Alex does not risk the accusation faced by the more charismatic Malcolm McDowell in Kubrick's movie, of glamorizing evil.

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Jeremy Kingston

**How Steeple Sinderby  
Wanderers Won  
the FA Cup  
Thorndike,  
Leatherhead**

Wanting to look at the novel by J.L. Carr on which this play is based, but unable to track down a copy, I borrowed another. *The Battle of Pollocks Crossing*, and read it at a sitting. I marvel at how he makes the awkward struggle of decent human beings in a tough world into thrilling adventures.

The protagonists of *How Steeple Sinderby* are similarly obscure, but here there are more of them, an entire village from the back end of nowhere, whose inhabitants bind themselves into an efficient football machine and knock out all their opponents all the way to Wembley. The stage version of this inspiring tale, by Christopher Lillicrap and Mike Fields, was first seen at Worcester.

Thorndike at Leatherhead has been astute in extending its life, transferring Fields's production

with several of the original cast.

With a cast of only seven, barely enough for half the team, dizzy doubling is required to bring in the vicar, his wild sister, housewives driving off Manchester loots with warming pans, and others. The nature of the story lends itself to this approach, but where a large cast might introduce greater physical variety, much is done to suggest this with quickly donned coats and hats pulled down over the ears.

The stage is simply furnished with some green chairs, lockers and a table, doubling as grandstands, against a backdrop of the church and houses snuggling close together to symbolize the village's new-found unity.

Carr's fondness for finding virtues where hardly expected finds its comic centre in Fangless, the chairman who runs the club as if it were an extension of his sugarbait factory. Treacherously played by Phil Croft, he is supported by likeable performances from Simon Coates as an ex-theology student, now bright young secretary, and Justice Morda as the club journalist suffering from chronic alliteration. A joyful evening.

This produces a complication. To make sure everyone can see the cottage is pushed right out on the stage; then to make room for dancing it is pulled back again into the wings.

That looks odd, but no more so than the cut-out forward projecting backcloths of Roger Butlin's decor. This has the merit of letting the ghostly apparitions of Act II appear from under the snowy ground (a chilling effect); the drawback is that folk in Act I also find themselves accidentally disappearing underground.

Also, having taken such care of some dramatic detail, it is surprising to see Hillarion at the end simply pushed into the wings with no indication of his watery death, or to find people sitting on a rough log when there is a garden seat available for them.

Gable has made a few changes to the choreography, not improvements, but not disastrous either; and he has obviously worked to get his cast conscious of style as well as drama. He has been more successful with their arms than their footwork; and although the dancing is all quite light and noiseless, it never becomes very aerial.

All told, this is not a production to match the one Alicia Markova did for the company a few years ago, but it is serviceable and has the merit of being built around the abilities of the present dancers, led by Graciela Kaplan as a sturdy Giselle and Duncan de Grochy as an earnest Albrecht.

La forza del destino opens at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Tuesday

Harry Eyres

**A Vision of Love  
Revealed in Sleep  
Drill Hall**

and innuendoes ("he was known for his frequent falls"), and reclaim him as a brave gay martyr and icon for gay men in our time. The problem is that Bartlett chooses to base his text on Solomon's prose poem of 1871 called *A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep*, which comes across as a work of dim sentimentality rather than perceptive eroticism. Bartlett reads passages from the Vision with a hesitant simplicity which commands respect, if not interest. The fact is that when the same passages are read again at the end of this 100-minute (too long) show, the effect is the same: there has been no gain in focus. Solomon was a gifted artist; on this evidence, he was not a good poet.

That may be to miss the point of this show, which is more concerned with drawing parallels

between Solomon's "fallen" life, devoted to the pleasures of rough trade and alcohol, and contemporary gay experience. Bartlett slips artfully between reminiscences of Solomon's life and observations on his own. These are sometimes humorous but more often nakedly (the only piece of clothing he wears throughout is a red silk scarf) confessional. Welcome variation is provided by a splendid trio of queens (it is the only appropriate word), in the persons of Bettie Bourne, Regina Fong and Robin Whitmore. Bourne is a performer of rare warmth and magnetism, at least when she is not trying to be a café chanteuse. Nicolas Bloomfield's piano playing is unfailingly refined.

Solomon's life was, I think, both sad and heroic. What is disquieting about this show is that, faced with the fear of AIDS and reactionary "morality", a gifted group of gay performers should choose such a role model - a man content with the hypocrisy of the time to waste his talent.

## Getting back to what the composer intended

John Mauceri, who is conducting a new production of Verdi's *La forza del destino* for Scottish Opera, talks to Hilary Finch

When John Mauceri made a magnificent London debut conducting *La forza del destino* for English National Opera in 1983, there seemed to be no problem about editions. He used Verdi's second, "improved" version, first performed in 1869 in Milan. Seven years on, as he prepares to conduct Elijah Moshinsky's new production for Scottish Opera, it is to much of Verdi's original version, composed for St Petersburg, that he will be looking. Mauceri, who majored in composition and musical analysis at Yale, and who has already come up with new ideas on *Candide*, *La traviata* and *Madam Butterfly*, clearly did not make the change lightly.

Andrew Porter, who translated the opera for ENO, had himself supervised a semi-professional production in California of the original 1862 St Petersburg score, and he sent Mauceri the tape. "My immediate response," Mauceri says, "was that at every instance Verdi had undoubtedly improved musical matters in the second version: so we stick by its musical substance. But, as far as the dramatic structure went, the revision made *La forza* seem long and formless, whereas the original makes it the most perfectly struc-

tured piece Verdi ever wrote."

The three crucial changes occur in the overture, in the restructuring of Act III, and in the final ending. Mauceri had always found the second overture (itself a popular concert piece), with its long development and loud happy ending, an incongruous curtain-raiser for an opera which began very quietly the repeated Es of the famous fate motif. The original Prelude, on the other hand, ends on that quiet E which leads right into the first scene.

Mauceri claims that the dramatic Act III is upset by its later revision. In order to end with a hit chorus (the "Rataplan"), Verdi sacrificed an entirely convincing and richly satisfying rondo-form, of alternating arias and choruses, which continued over into Act IV and gave the original version such strength.

The ending of the opera also troubled Mauceri. He says he is redeemed by Leonora's death. Well, the opera is simply not religious. It's not about the victory of God over Man: it's about a curse, the curse of a father he kills. The first scene ends in C minor with the pistol shot: in the original, the opera, too, ends in C minor as that curse is worked out.



John Mauceri: *La forza* is Verdi's "most perfectly structured piece" and the stage becomes littered with two murders and one suicide. "And the curtain comes down with three, quiet repeated Es. Beethoven's Fifth without the final note!"

With his reference to Beethoven, Mauceri shoots off into another characteristic observation which underpins his emphasis on the importance of such referential structures in Verdi's music. "I'm struck by the similarity between *La forza* and two other great Spanish operas by non-Spanish composers: *Fidelio* and *Don Giovanni*. The theme of the separated lovers, of the curse. They had a tremendous influence on Verdi. *La forza* is Verdi's most 'German' score (the Germans

## Trimmed to fit them

DANCE

John Percival

**Giselle  
City Hall, Sheffield**

Christopher Gable has put his mark firmly on his new production of *Giselle* for Northern Ballet Theatre. For one thing, it looks different from other versions by being set in the 19th century and taking place, I imagine, in Switzerland, judging by the mountains behind the little villa occupied by the heroine and her mother.

Here, they offer the passing gentry not wine but a nice soothing cup of tea. Can we believe in suicide by a sword-stick in this context?

Gable is obviously keen for us to follow the story. In case we are not sure what Albrecht is up to inside his cottage, we see him arrive complete with manservant carrying his disguise in a carpet-bag, and the wall of the cottage is cut away so that we see inside.

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## INFORMATION SERVICE

## Scrutinizing Scottish art



Portrait Group (above) by James Cowie is among 250 paintings, drawings and sculptures by more than 100 artists in a new exhibition called "Scottish Art Since 1900", which gives about as comprehensive an account of its subject as we are ever likely to get. There are two major issues which constantly arise when Scottish art comes under scrutiny. The first is concerned with pinpointing the essential Scottishness of it. The second is akin to the first but easier to do. It relates to identifying the apparently distinct stylistic traditions of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Cowie, for example, was trained in Glasgow which has, so the argument runs, a history of figurative, narrative art based on sound drawing and hard lines. By contrast,

## CONCERTS

**SUSTAINED BRUCKNER:** The Hallé Orchestra is conducting by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski in Schumann's Piano Concerto (Peter Donohoe, soloist) and Bruckner's lengthy Symphony No. 3.

**SAALOMON'S SCHOENBERG:** The CSO is conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen in Schoenberg's 19th symphony, the 19th symphony, the 19th symphony, the 19th symphony.

**ALL SHOSTAKOVICH:** Raymond Clarke conducts Shostakovich's Piano Sonata Nos 1 and 2, Fantasia in D, 24 Preludes and some of the Op 87 Preludes and Fugues.

**GRADUATION DANCES:** The National Symphony Orchestra with dancers from the London City Ballet are conducted by David Coleman in a new production of "Graduation Dances".

**WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15):** Engaging romantic comedy, with Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as professional misanthropes who gradually fall for each other. Written by Nora Ephron, directed by Rob Reiner (95 min).

**TURNER AND HOOD:** Predictable cop-and-dog antics given some charm by Tom Hanks as the police investigator. Cannon Channel (1-352 5096). Progs 1.45, 4.10, 7.10, 9.40.

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## JAZZ

**THE HENSON, QUINN'S WALK, READING** (0734 390123), 7.30pm, £7.50-£10.50.

**KARIN VYNICE:** Belgian dancer in her own work *Sous les vêtements blancs*.

**THE MAIL, LONDON SW1** (01-830 3647), 8pm, £5.00, £6.00.

**YANK LAWSON:** A co-leader of The World's Greatest Jazz Band, the Bob Crosby trumpeter is still going strong at 79.

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## ROCK

**DANIEL LAROS:** French Canadian multi-instrumentalist, renowned for his production work with U2, Peter Gabriel, the Neville Brothers and Bob Dylan (Oz Mercury). Laros released his own debut, *Acadie*, to critical acclaim last year.

**ERIC CLAPTON:** After his stellar blues shows with Robert Cray and Buddy Guy, three nights of symphonic rock rock as Clapton recruits the London Sinfonietta and conducts a concerto for guitar written for him by Michael Kamen (*Edge of Darkness*).

**ROYAL AND HALL, KENSINGTON GORE, LONDON SW7** (01-588 8212), 7.30pm, £13.50-£17.50, also tomorrow and Sat.

**THE QUIREBOYS:** Five Keef localities devoted to the Rod Stewart/Faces blueprint as exemplified by their 17th album, *A Bit of What You Fancy*, only just failed to reach No 1 this week.

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University College School, Frognal, London NW3 (01-435 2215), 7.45pm, £5 on door. Proceeds to charity.

**FLORA PURIM & AIRTO:** Whistles, drums and fusion as the Latin couple approach the end of their residency, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth St, London W1 (01-439 0747), 9.30pm, £10 (members £2), To Sat.

**WAYNE BACHELOR:** The Jazz Warriors/Reggae Philharmonic bassist leads a quartet featuring alto player Brian Edwards. Back 35, Coronet St, London N1 (01-729 2478), 8.45pm, £3.50.

**GEORGE MELLY:** Too often taken for granted, Good Time George and John Chilton's Feetwarmers center through the blues catalogue. Arts Council Gallery, Bedford St, Bedford (0223 52145), 10pm-10.30pm, free, until March 3.

**TOM PHILLIPS:** The conceptual artist's portrait paintings of friends and celebrities in the art world. Oxford University, Lecturer Theatre, Coventry (0223 52523), Mon-Fri noon-8pm, Sat 10am-8pm, free, until March 10.

**BERNADETTE KERR:** Twelve paintings inspired by Italy and her art by a lecturer at the British School in Rome. Albemarle Gallery, 15 Albemarle St, London W1 (01-355 1880), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-1pm, free, until March 10.

**NEW DIRECTIONS IN SCOTTISH SCULPTURE:** Works by ten young artists including Doug Cockar and Elizabeth Moffat. Sculpture Court, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141), free, until April 16.

**ABOUT FACE:** Figurative paintings and sculptures by, among others, Christopher Goss and Adam Kops. Sun Williams Gallery, 320 Portobello Rd, London W10 (01-608 6123), Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, free, until March 3.

**CRUFF'S DOG SHOW:** Highlight of the canine year for breeders, owners and dog lovers with judging in categories. Today: Poles and Lilies, tomorrow: Gundogs, Sat: Terriers and Hounds. Sun: Working Dogs and Best in Show. Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Rd, London SW5 (01-373 8141), Open daily 8.30am-5.30pm, admission before 3.30pm adults £5, child £2.25, after 3.30pm, adults £3.50, child £2.

**EPHEMERA AND VALENTINE SALE:** Photographs and documents from the Annandale-Edwards Polar Flights made in 1925 and 1926 are among the highlights of today's sale. Also interesting lots of ephemera and collected Valentines. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Rd, London SW7 (01-581 7611), 10.30am.

**CHORAL MASTERPIECES:** Concert series featuring great works in the choral repertoire, including Bach's *Magnificat* in D, Verdi and Mozart Requiem, Haydn's *Creation*, Elgar's *The Apostles*, Offertory, *Carmina Burana*, and Bach's *St Matthew and St John Passions*, March/April. Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

**LILIAN BAYLES THEATRE:** Feb/March events include Irish week; Islington Independents evening of work by local choreographers as part of third Islington Dance Festival; 28th Feb. Polka Theatre Pantomime 1990 company from Poland (March 1-8); flamenco classes, with tapes and Fast Forward, March 29-31; Lilian Bayles Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Drury Lane, London EC1 (01-278 8978).

**BALANCE PAINTINGS:** Exhibition in support of Living Earth's rain forest work. Works for sale. London Ecology Centre, 45 Shelton St, London WC2 (01-373 4324).

**PAUL NASH'S PLACES:** Study-five paintings, watercolour drawings and photographs on the artist's favorite landscapes, to mark anniversary of his birth. Ends Sun. Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (0322 265859).

**Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harris; Opera: Hilary King; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Gorka; Circus: Gail Davis; David Lee; Walks: Talks: Greta Carls; Other Events: Judy Froehlich; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

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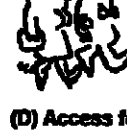
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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Refunds only  
(\*) Access for disabled

**THEATRE**  
**LONDON**

★ **THE BEAUX STRATAGEM** Peter Wood's NT/Belgrade (Coventry) production reaches London after nationwide tour.

Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-435 2252), Tube: Waterloo, Tonight 7.30pm, £7-£



## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Gillian MaxeyUlster's  
prisoners  
of war

Peter Waymark

For 25 years or so Michael Grigby has been a leading name in British documentary-making, gathering a string of awards and much critical acclaim. His approach, in the tradition of Robert Flaherty and Humphrey Jennings, is to treat reality with the imagination of an artist. Grigby's latest film, *The Silent War* (Channel 4, 10.15pm), is a portrait of west Belfast which tries to distill the Northern Ireland conflict through the experiences of ordinary people. He captures them talking unselfconsciously in pubs or at home and interviews these pieces of *cine-verité* with powerful images of soldiers patrolling the streets and lyrical evocations of the Ulster



Innocent victim: a little girl sits crying in west Belfast (Channel 4, 10.15pm)

countryside as a peaceful contrast to the besieged city. The death of a 15-year-old schoolboy, killed accidentally by a plastic bullet, points out the theme of innocent victims which pervades much of the film. One of Grigby's most effective shots, held for several seconds, is of the boy's house, silent and with its windows covered, after the funeral procession has left. There is no commentary, though this is not the same as saying that the words and images are left to speak for themselves. Indeed, the film takes a very clear position, blaming the Northern Ireland deadlock on the politicians in Westminster who have abdicated responsibility for the province and used the troops as a substitute for a policy. This may or may not be the case but it seems a pity that, having set out to avoid the political soap box, Grigby should end up by standing on one.

In *Notes in the Margins* (BBC2, 8.20pm), the series of lively polemics about the 1980s, Stephen Heath argues that a curse of the decade was a spurious multiculturalism. Largely promoted by television, this subsumed genuine, individual cultures into an international pap of game shows, music videos and satellite spectacles. At the same time, and with the Rushdie affair in mind, Heath questions the power of single cultures and stresses the need for human rights as well as cultural ones. Along the way, echoing Marshall McLuhan's dictum that the medium is the message, Heath takes a swipe at the Eighties' preoccupation with style. For him this is epitomized by the Design Museum, housed in a redevelopment along the Thames having "nothing to do with community, roots or people's lives".

## BBC 1

6.00 *Cee-fax*  
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando. Includes regular news headlines; business news; sports reports; regional news; weather and travel information plus a look at the morning newspapers with Paul Cullen. 5.55 Regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Presented from the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford.

9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).

10.25 *Children's BBC*. Introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* (r) 10.50 *Roobarb*. Narrated by Richard Briers (r) 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Catherine Giller with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Presented from the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford.

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Andy Craig reports from London's Guildhall on the McDonald's Child of Achievement Awards. One hundred and fifty children have been chosen from more than 9,000 nominated for their outstanding efforts to help others or their battle to overcome a personal illness or disability. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather.

1.30 *Neighbours*. Runaway Todd finds there's a heavy price for living on the street. (Cee-fax).

1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European general knowledge quiz game.

2.15 *Film: They Went Belfry* (1947, b/w) starring Robert Young, Jane Greer and Susan Hayward. Standing trial for his life, Larry Belfry is given the chance to tell the jury what really happened, in a story of greed, lust and murder. Directed by Irving Pichel.

3.50 *Charlie Chick* (r) 4.05 *Assassination* (r) 4.15 *Blackjack*. Michael Williams with part four of Alison Prince's *How's Business* 4.25 *New York Bear Show* 4.35 *Alfonso Bonzo*. Last in the series starring Alex Jennings.

5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Elise Peter*. With Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan. (Cee-fax).

5.25 *Neighbours* (r). (Cee-fax).

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.

6.30 *Newsround South East*.

7.00 *Top of the Pops* introduced by Gary Davies (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1).

7.30 *News*. Garry is determined to leave the Square, but who will he take with him - Michelle or his wife? (Cee-fax).

8.00 *Tomorrow's World*. In the first of a series of science reports from the South Atlantic, a look at why it never rains in Red Square on any public holiday. Plus the French electronic device aimed at improving fencing skills. Joining the team is presenter Kate Bollingham.

8.30 *More to Remember*. Also moves in with Zoe but everything is far from rosy when Zoe brings home a young male colleague from work and also decides to play tit for tat by teasing his old flame "Dangerous" Dollie. (Cee-fax).

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather.

9.30 *One Foot in the Grave*. In this last episode it's Victor's 61st birthday, and he has to mark the occasion as his own personalized tombstone, six pounds of beetroot and a hat that looks as if it once belonged to Tommy.

10.00 *Question Time*. Peter Sissons is joined around the table by Labour's energy spokesman Frank Dobson, former Defence Secretary George Younger, leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party Margaret Ewing, and Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown.

11.00 *International Snooker*. David Icke introduces the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament from the Wembley Conference Centre. Tonight, the second quarter-final.

12.10am *Weather*.

## ITV/LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine includes *Clayton's* advice on emotional problems.

9.25 *Lucky Ladders*. Game show hosted by Lennie Bennett. 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.

10.00 *The Time... The Place...* Topical discussion series chaired by Anne Diamond.

10.40 *This Morning*. Magazine programme presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes advice on problems facing the over-60s; Dr Chris Steele's different bracing techniques; and ideas on helping a child learn to read. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 *The Riddlers*. For the young. 12.30 *Home and Away*. Carly falls for Matt in a big way and decides not to go back to her old boyfriend.

1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet. Weather. 1.30 *Thames News* and weather.

1.30 *Wish You Were Here... ?* (r). (Oracle). 2.00 *A Country Practice*. Australian medical drama series. 3.00 *Win, Lose or Draw*. Game show hosted by Danny Baker. 3.25 *Thames News* and weather.

3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. More drama from the lives of the Palmer and Hamilton families.

4.00 *Hot Dog* 4.15 *Dogman* and the *Three Musketeers* (r) 4.40 *Press Gang*. Sam wants a new graphic design team - but who is going to get rid of Claire? (Oracle).

5.10 *Blockbusters* with Bob Holness. 5.40 *Thames News*. Weather. 6.00 *Home and Away* (r).

6.25 *Thames News* and weather. 6.50 *Thames Help*. Jackie Sprackley with ideas on community fund-raising.

7.00 *Entertainment*. Young people are on the warpath and Amos faces a rebellion.

7.30 *Survival*. Rocky Mountain High. The flora and fauna of the High Rocky Mountains.

8.00 *The Bill*. Bloodbuckler. PC Melvin and WPC Ford are called out to a domestic incident, but the wife refuses to bring charges against her husband. (Oracle).

8.30 *This Week*. *Seinfeld*. Without a trial, a documentary about people who are incarcerated after being found "unfit to plead".

9.00 *The Sherlock Holmes: The Red-Headed League*. Jabez Wilson successfully answers an advertisement for a job vacancy which offers £24 a week for "nominal services". But two months later it is a bewildered man who consults Sherlock Holmes (r). (Oracle).

10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Julia Cornwell. 10.30 *Thames News* and weather.

10.35 *The City Programme*. Will the freeing of Nelson Mandela unlock British investment in South Africa?

11.05 *01*. For London includes reviews of *A Clockwork Orange*, and Arthur Miller's play *The Price*. Followed by *Criminologists*.

11.40 *Prisoner*. Cell Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's prison.

12.30 *Q&A*. Problem. Aired. Viewers' emotional problems discussed by experts.

1.00 *Superstars of Wrestling*. 1.45 *News* headlines followed by *Hollywood*. *Who's the First* part of a mini-series based on Jackie Collins's best-selling novel about Hollywood's beautiful people.

While some of the biggest names of all gather for a celebration in Philadelphia, a deranged young man kills his adopted parents and heads for Hollywood to find his real mother. Starring Candice Bergen, Joanna Cassidy, Mary McCormack, Angie Dickinson and Steve Forrest (r).

3.30 *Night Gallery: The Waiting Room*. Gunfighter Sam Dichter rides past a hanging figure and enters a bar where poker-playing customers seem to know all about him (see Choice).

4.00 *News* headlines followed by *Three's Company*. Jack and Janet have a new flatmate when Cindy, drops in unexpectedly during her first visit to the city.

4.30 *Amos* 4.45 *Top Ten* (r). 5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00.

## BBC 2

5.00 *News* 5.15 *Westminster*. 5.30 *Cee-fax*. 5.45 *Daytime on Two*. The Black Country. Alan 1.50 *Priority*. 10.00 *Structures*. 10.20 *Building a hen house*. 10.40 *Young technologists* challenge 11.00 *Tropical rain forests*. 11.20 *Sports* using natural forces. 11.40 *Tutorial topics*. 12.03 *Working as a sales assistant* or in the hair and beauty industry. 12.25 *A teenager leaves home*. 12.50 *For science teachers*. 1.30 *Fingermusic*. 1.40 *Music time*. 2.00 *News* and weather followed by *Watch 2*. 2.15 *Autism*. 2.30 *News* from Leominster (r). (Cee-fax).

3.00 *News* and weather followed by *Westminster Live*. Includes Prime Minister's Question Time. 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.

4.00 *International Snooker*. The Benson and Hedges Masters. 5.00 *Doesn't Have to Hurt* (r).

5.10 *Horizon*. Encounter with Neptune (r). (Cee-fax).

6.00 *Film: The Black Knight* (1954). starring Alan Lister. A castle armourer, disguised himself as a knight and seeks revenge on the Saracens who murdered his father.

7.30 *Worldwide*. Ghana. Confirms the custom in coastal villages in Ghana of shaping confetti according to the occasion of the deceased. *Orlando* the Concorde looks at a festival in a remote Andean mountain village.

8.20 *Notes in the Margins* 1980-89. 9.00 *The Three Sides Presents...* South Atlantic Raiders. 9.35 *40 Minutes*. Danger Men. A documentary about a new "kid gloves" experiment on 10 of the most dangerous and disruptive men in Britain's prisons.

10.15 *A Wake for Sam*. Harold Pinter talks about Samuel Beckett and reads from the final pages of Beckett's last play *The Unnameable*.

10.30 *Newsnight*. 11.15 *The Late Show* includes an interview with Terry Hands. 11.55 *Open University: Weekend Outlook*. 12.05am *Development and Learning*. Ends at 12.35.

11.00 *Night Fly*. 11.25am *Strong Medicine*. 1.40 *Competition*. 2.10 *Sportsworld*. 2.40 *Big Band*. 3.10 *News*. 3.20 *TSW*. 3.40 *Home and Away*. 4.00 *TSW*. 4.30 *Home and Away*. 4.50 *TSW*. 5.20 *TSW*. 5.50 *TSW*. 6.20 *TSW*. 6.50 *TSW*. 7.20 *TSW*. 7.50 *TSW*. 8.20 *TSW*. 8.50 *TSW*. 9.20 *TSW*. 9.50 *TSW*. 10.20 *TSW*. 10.50 *TSW*. 11.20 *TSW*. 11.50 *TSW*. 12.20 *TSW*. 12.50 *TSW*. 1.00 *TSW*. 1.30 *TSW*. 2.00 *TSW*. 2.30 *TSW*. 3.00 *TSW*. 3.30 *TSW*. 4.00 *TSW*. 4.30 *TSW*. 5.00 *TSW*. 5.30 *TSW*. 6.00 *TSW*. 6.30 *TSW*. 7.00 *TSW*. 7.30 *TSW*. 8.00 *TSW*. 8.30 *TSW*. 9.00 *TSW*. 9.30 *TSW*. 10.00 *TSW*. 10.30 *TSW*. 11.00 *TSW*. 11.30 *TSW*. 12.00 *TSW*. 12.30 *TSW*. 1.00 *TSW*. 1.30 *TSW*. 2.00 *TSW*. 2.30 *TSW*. 3.00 *TSW*. 3.30 *TSW*. 4.00 *TSW*. 4.30 *TSW*. 5.00 *TSW*. 5.30 *TSW*. 6.00 *TSW*. 6.30 *TSW*. 7.00 *TSW*. 7.30 *TSW*. 8.00 *TSW*. 8.30 *TSW*. 9.00 *TSW*. 9.30 *TSW*. 10.00 *TSW*. 10.30 *TSW*. 11.00 *TSW*. 11.30 *TSW*. 12.00 *TSW*. 12.30 *TSW*. 1.00 *TSW*. 1.30 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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6985 (-0.0015)  
W German mark  
2.8118 (-0.0098)  
Exchange index  
89.2 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1826.2 (-9.4)  
FT-SE 100  
2307.4 (-13.7)  
USM (Datastream)  
155.45 (-0.39)

Market report, page 30

Societies  
aid scheme  
at Regalian

Regalian, the property developer, has assembled a panel of building societies and banks to provide mortgages for its £180 million 50-50 London home ownership scheme.

The list includes Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, which has already joined forces with Fairclough Homes in a similar scheme. Halifax building society is also backing the scheme despite having called in the receiver last year to a Docklands project it had financed for Kentish Homes. A large number of Regalian's flats are in Docklands, although there are some in Battersea, Chelsea and Westminster.

The other building societies are Alliance & Leicester and Nationwide Anglia. The company is also understood to be talking to Abbey National. Banque Paribas and Banque Nationale de Paris are backing the scheme, as is John Charcol, the mortgage broker.

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2881.76 (+25.45)  
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 37301.87 (+384.98)  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2844.69 (+52.00)  
Sydney: ASX 1045.6 (-1.5)  
Frankfurt: DAX 1900.10 (-37.62)  
Brussels: CAC 6164.76 (-34.83)  
Paris: CAC 6164.76 (-34.83)  
Zurich: SMI 6120 (-4.9)  
FT-A All-Share 1154.55 (-6.14)  
FT-100 1257.52 (-6.41)  
FT-1000 375.1 (-3.4)  
FT-10000 61.25 (+0.25)  
FT-100000 60.80 (-0.43)  
Recent issues Page 28  
Closing prices Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:  
Hambros 319p (+16p)  
Union Discount 602p (+18p)  
Really Useful 227p (+10p)  
Fidelity 475p (+12p)  
Walter Duncan 475p (+12p)  
Christies Int 316p (+30p)  
Securicor 902p (+15p)  
Security Services 694p (+12p)  
UK Land 475p (+15p)  
Barr & WEA 315p (+20p)  
FALLS:  
Eurotunnel Units 627p (-17p)  
SA Breweries 627p (-17p)  
Henderson Admin 785p (-10p)  
MJ Gleeson 720p (-10p)  
S Miller 141p (-10p)  
Davies & Newman 625p (-20p)  
Commercial Union 491p (-13p)  
News Corp 502p (-20p)  
Priest Mariani 177p (-10p)  
Rosehaugh 318p (-14p)  
Closing prices Page 31  
SEAD Volume 388.5m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%  
3-month Interbank 15.15-15.16%  
3-month eligible bill 14.14-14.15%  
US Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 8.75%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.51-7.50%  
30-year bonds 9.45-9.44%

CURRENCIES

London: £/\$ 1.6985  
£/DM 2.8118  
£/Sfr 2.5153  
£/FF 6.5563  
£/Yen 243.85  
£/Index 89.2  
ECU £0.72081 SDR £0.78093  
£/ECU 1.38309 £/SDR 1.76987

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$419.50-423.75  
close \$422.50-423.00 (£248.50-249.00)  
New York: Comex \$422.80-423.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$19.70/bbl (\$19.50)  
Dumelia latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.345	2.185
Austria Sch	20.60	19.40
Belgium F	36.36	33.33
Canada C\$	2.11	2.00
Denmark Kr	11.48	10.66
France F	6.55	6.16
Germany DM	2.36	2.25
Greece Dr	206	193
Hong Kong \$	10.31	9.78
India Rupee	21.85	20.65
Italy Lira	336	315
Japan Yen	160.78	150.78
Netherlands Gld	2.20	2.08
Norway Kr	20.75	19.47
Portugal Esc	200	180
Spain Ptas	166.67	155.56
Sweden Kr	10.36	9.78
Switzerland F	2.05	1.93
Turkey Lira	4485	4185
USA \$	1.6985	1.6985
Yugoslavia Dnr	ref	ref

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 118.5 (December)

Few aspects of love as 'bored' composer's buyout angers directors



Seating plan: composer Andrew Lloyd Webber announces his proposals to take Really Useful Group private yesterday at the offices of Salomon Brothers

Lloyd Webber unveils £50m plan for RUG

By Martin Waller

Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber has finally released plans to take his Really Useful Group private.

The company was set up to market multi-million pound musicals such as *Cats*, *Evita* and *Aspects of Love*.

His reasons include boredom with the City, a desire to write more serious works and a suspicion that RUG should never have been floated.

The buyout plan touched off an angry response from the non-executive directors, who claimed they had not been properly consulted.

Talk of plans to buy out shareholders first emerged last October. Mr Lloyd Webber is now borrowing about £50 million from Coutts & Co to fund a leveraged buyout which will make a final offer of 233p a share, giving an historic exit multiple of 15.4 times and valuing the whole group at £77.4 million. There is a loan note alternative.

Other shareholders, including an estimated 3,000 members of the public and Mercury Asset Management Group, the fund management group, with 17 per cent, are being given little choice, however.

Newco, the shell company being used by the composer to take RUG private, already has a controlling majority of 52.5 per cent, having bought Mr Lloyd Webber's holding of 38.1 per cent and the stake of 14.4 per cent taken by Mr Robert Maxwell.

He emerged as a surprise shareholder last August, having bought the former holding of Mr Brian Broly, founder and former managing director, who left after a boardroom row in October, 1988.

The publisher, eventually accepted the 233p per share. This compares with an equivalent of 110p at which the company was floated in a tender offer in 1986.

Mr Lloyd Webber's contract

is due to expire in January, 1993, depriving the company, as it stands, of any work produced after that. One condition of the Coutts deal is that he signs a future contract binding him to the company.

The non-executive directors, who include the chairman, Lord Gownie, the former Arts Minister, and Mr Melvyn Bragg, the television personality, planned to report soon with an independent valuation of RUG's assets, and shareholders were meanwhile advised to take no action.

Mrs Alison Carswell, a director of Schroders, which helped bring RUG to market, said: "There wasn't much consultation beforehand. We would have preferred the whole thing to have been debated within the company. We aren't going to be bulldozed into giving our views until the non-executives have

taken all the necessary advice to form a proper view on what shareholders should do."

Mr Lloyd Webber said he disliked the necessity of informing the Stock Exchange of his every move as well as the resulting publicity. He was "bored" with the City and the necessity of deciding the direction for the company, having moved back on to the board after Mr Broly's departure.

He was also keen to create a "not so overtly commercial" body of work. "My worry was that the company itself hasn't succeeded in really producing another major profit stream. We can't rely for ever on works like *Cats*. It was all resting on one person who was perhaps veering off in another direction," he said.

He "80 per cent accepted" the view of Salomon Brothers, his merchant bank, that the company should never have been floated.

US-Soviet trade talks are due to start in Washington next Monday.

Insurers face £5bn storm damage bill

By Melinda Wittstock

Insurance claims for extensive damage caused by storms battering Britain and much of the continent in the past two weeks are now thought likely to top £3 billion for UK insurers alone.

But the total bill facing worldwide insurers for flood and wind damage has been estimated at more than £5 billion, according to Mr Peter Constable, a reinsurance analyst at Robert Fleming, the brokers.

Lloyd's of London - still reeling from \$15 billion (£8.8 billion) losses from Hurricane Hugo, Piper Alpha, the San Francisco and Australian earthquakes and Britain's 1987 hurricane - is expected to shoulder more than half of the total British bill.

Lloyd's, with leading European insurers such as Munich RE and Swiss RE, also faces a large exposure to damage in the continent, which has been hit far harder than England in

the aftermath of the first storm on January 25. Robert Fleming, which yesterday downgraded its 1990 profits estimates for the British composite insurers, put the damage for the first storm at £1.5 billion in Britain alone.

"We expect total UK losses to hit around £3 billion, especially with more storms forecast, with estimates of £5 billion on the low side for the UK and continent as a whole," said Mr Constable. Mr David Hudson, an analyst with BZW, added: "No one really has a clue yet about the final bill, but it will be much greater than the October 1987 hurricane - £3 billion is about right for the UK alone."

He said Lloyd's would be hit with more than half of the burden, but how much more is still unclear as it is still unknown how much syndicates have reinsured themselves.

Robert Fleming, which said it expected shares in composite insurers to fall by about 25 per cent, expects the storms to

slash hundreds of millions of pounds from profits throughout the sector, leading to premium rate rises by the second half of 1990 and into 1991.

The broker has cut its forecast for profits at Sun Alliance, Britain's biggest insurer of household buildings and contents, by £75 million to £175 million. It has lopped £50 million off Royal Insurance to just £125 million. General Accident, one of Britain's biggest property insurers, has been put back £40 million to £160 million.

Mr Constable believes reinsurers are likely to increase their rates, making a further impact on the composites' profits, should the storms continue.

Sun Alliance, which lost £160 million in 1987 and believes claims this time will significantly top its £110 million reinsurance cover, said it is unlikely consumers will suffer an immediate hike in premium rates. Mr Fraser Fundell, opera-

tions manager at Sun Alliance, said: "We're not looking out the sector, but if it looks as though weather damage claims are increasing in frequency, then raising premium rates will have to be considered."

But Mr David Coleridge, the chairman of Sturge, the largest managing agent at Lloyd's, said premium rates for household and contents insurance could rise between 20 per cent and 25 per cent during 1990.

He said: "It's difficult to get specific projections from composites on premium rates; they all say they are reviewing the situation because they don't want to lose market share."

"Reinsurance rates are likely to rise first, forcing premium rates up later." Mr Fundell added that Sun Alliance had received 123,000 claims up until Monday. However, their value is slightly less than for the 1987 hurricane.

Marshall 'failed' on power plans

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Lord Marshall of Goring yesterday told MPs he should have spoken out publicly against the Government's power privatization plans as soon as they were announced.

Lord Marshall, who resigned as head of the Central Electricity Generating Board because of the Government decision to withdraw nuclear power from electricity privatization, said criticism of the Government plans as "spatchcock" legislation was fair. He also felt he should have publicly attacked some proposals put forward by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Energy Secretary.

He told the Commons Energy Select Committee - which described Mr Parkinson's White Paper to privatize the industry as spatchcock legislation - he had failed to

persuade the country to invest in reliable nuclear power systems. He said the Government decision to cancel the programme to develop a network of pressurized-water-cooled reactor power stations was "very bad."

Lord Marshall consistently opposed the continuation of Britain's programme to build advanced-gas-cooled reactor power stations and actively promoted the American-designed PWR system.

He had planned to build five PWR stations for National Power before the Government withdrew nuclear power from the privatization programme because increased costs for nuclear fuel and decommissioning led to the City advising Mr John Wakeham that nuclear power would be almost unaffordable.

Mitsubishi joins St Paul's project

By Matthew Bond

Mitsubishi Estate Company, one of the largest Japanese property companies, is to join the consortium developing Paternoster Square, the controversial site surrounding St Paul's Cathedral, in London.

Tokyo sources confirmed that Mitsubishi is to come in as an equal partner in the £700 million scheme, alongside Greysteel, a City developer, and Park Tower Realty, a New York developer.

Greysteel, run by Mr Geoffrey Wilson, chairman, and Park Tower Realty, a private company run by Mr George Klein, have each invested £15 million of equity into the joint venture company which acquired the four-acre site for £150 million last year.

Mitsubishi will also inject £15 million. But far more importantly it is providing a loan

package. The size of the loan is undisclosed, but it is thought to secure the long term ownership of the site. It is a vote of confidence in the City market, in a week where Roscaugh's £125 million rights issue had sent alarm bells ringing.

Paternoster is Mitsubishi's second large international purchase. Last November it paid \$846 million (£497 million) for a 51 per cent stake in the Rockefeller Group.

Mr Wilson and Mr Klein moved swiftly to diffuse the architectural dispute that surrounded the site. The Arup masterplan was scrapped and Mr John Simpson, a classical architect, was brought in. He has been joined by Mr Thomas Beeby, a leading American classicist. Mr Terry Farrell, the post modernist, is co-ordinating the plan.

Ridley decision follows pressure for inquiry from investors

DTI inspectors to investigate BOM

By Jeremy Andrews

Government inspectors are to investigate BOM Holdings, the furniture retailer and property group, and nobody is more pleased than BOM shareholders.

Mr John Welland, secretary of the BOM Shareholders Action Committee, which has campaigned for the appointment of inspectors, welcomed the decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary. He said: "I'm very pleased. But just because we have won one battle, it doesn't mean the war is over."

The Department of Trade and Industry move follows intense pressure from BOM investors, whose shares have been suspended since January last year. The shareholders were incensed last year by the company's announcement that its Just Leather and Roselodge Kitchens subsidiaries were in receivership and that it had contracted to sell its remaining asset, a 400-acre site at

Kingsnorth, Kent, for just £12 million without planning permission.

The disposal plans had not been submitted to shareholders for approval. Mr Welland's five-man committee believes the Kingsnorth site could be worth at least £70 million with planning permission for an industrial estate.

The inspectors are Mr Christopher Brougham, QC, and Mr Raymond Turner. The inquiry is to be under

Tempus 24

section 432 of the Companies Act 1985, which allows general investigation of a company's affairs.

The Kingsnorth site, bought in 1922, was home to a bitumen refinery until 1964. This longstanding use means that it could be used again for oil-related purposes and strengthens BOM's hand in negotiating planning consent for

alternative uses. Rochester City Council has been considering an application on 300 acres of the site since January last year. A decision on the application is due in March. BOM intends to sell the site to Surelance, a private company controlled by Mr John Morris, chairman of Therm-A-Stor, the double glazing supplier.

Mr Michael Lucas, BOM chairman, preferred not to comment on the appointment of the DTI inspectors, but said: "There is a perfectly legal, binding contract for the sale of the land."

Meanwhile, BOM is suing Arthur Andersen, the accountant, for £8.5 million in connection with the purchase of Albacode, the holding company for Just Leather and Roselodge Kitchens. Yet Albacode was bought from a company controlled by Mr Lucas. Andersen said BOM's claim was "ridiculous and without foundation".

British Steel Lite.



For a heavy industry, British Steel is surprisingly light on its feet.

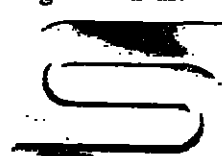
Especially when it comes to meeting - and anticipating - our customers' demands.

Take cans. Tin cans. Now made more and more from lightweight British Steel tinplate.

That's good for us, of course. And good for the environment, too. Because they're so easily recycled. (950 million of them last year.)

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We're adding value to our products in many ways. Our lightweight steels are shining examples.



WE'RE ADDING VALUE AT BRITISH STEEL.



TEMPUS

# Union manages to break out of high-rate, low-profit circle

By tripling its net profits in 1989, Union Discount has squared an age-old circle. The discount houses were once the simplest interest-rate play on the stock market. When rates rose, profits fell. Once they peaked it was time to buy, as profitability recovered.

Union's 304 per cent increase in attributable earnings to £10.5 million, in a year when the base rate rose from 13 to 15 per cent, is a tribute to the sophistication of today's financial markets. The early success of the group's diversification also played its part.

The traditional discount house operations increased net profits by 156 per cent by making full use of the futures market. Mr Graeme Gilchrist, the chief executive, made no secret of his bullish views on interest rates last year and the futures contracts Union sold allowed it to benefit from the two base rate hikes, despite pressure on interest margins.

Demand for short-term funds from institutions continues its break-neck growth, and on one day last summer pushed the company's turnover to £6.4 billion, more than 50 per cent above the previous record. When interest rates do start to fall, Union would appear to be in a position to make its book as long and profitable as it wants.

The real stars last year were the non-discounting businesses, where pre-tax profits grew 327 per cent to £6.71 million. Most of the growth came from equities and gilts market-making. A £3 million contribution from Winter-flood Securities, the smaller companies market-maker, showed it is possible to carve a niche in even the most competitive industry. Aitken Campbell, the Glasgow gilts trader, demonstrated the joys of a low-cost base.

This year, Union's specialist leasing business should begin to contribute, and even Mr Gilchrist now believes there could be a base rate cut in the autumn. Discount house profits are difficult to forecast, but £14 million looks possible for the year, while the dividend, up 10 per cent this time to 33p, with a 21.5p final, could rise to 36p.

The shares at 603p stand on



A little less bearish: Graeme Gilchrist, Union chief executive, who said yesterday there could be an autumn base rate cut

an historic p/e ratio of 11, and a yield of 7.3 per cent. Sir Ron Brierley's 28.4 per cent stake ensures a premium rating, but a bid is far from certain. Inexpensive none the less.

## St Modwen

For a share that once hit almost 80p, the last three years have been dispiriting for St Modwen. Since the crash, the shares have gone precisely nowhere, meandering about a band of 30p-45p, offering opportunities to trade but little incentive to hold.

And yet the company, which builds commercial property, mainly in the Midlands and the North, has not put a foot wrong. Since Mr Stan Clarke, the chairman, reversed three companies into Redman Heenan in 1986, profits have risen in copybook style. Yesterday's sparkling results - pre-tax profits almost doubled at £10.1 million and net assets per share up 41 per cent at 41p - continued the impressive trend.

It says much about the tough in which the property sector finds itself, that the

shares - at 36p - celebrated by doing precisely nothing. Mr Clarke is not a man to lose faith in the City. He ran a private business for 30 years and, having finally succeeded in his ambition of running a public company, has no plans to return to the private arena.

The figures suggest that investors could be missing out on a medium-term bargain if the shares continue to be cold-shouldered. Gearing, at just 50 per cent, is modest enough for a company with such an active development side. The wide range of products built by the company means it is not totally dependent on institutional sales for its profit, thereby ensuring a reliable stream of earnings.

As to future growth, the plan is to stick to what the company knows it does well, but to increase market share. It might sound unexciting but it looks a great deal more prudent than expansion plans embarked on by others.

At 36p, the shares are on a historic p/e of 5.8 and stand at a 12 per cent discount to assets per share.

Forecasts are difficult in the

current market, but Mr Clarke sounded a note of modest caution, not disaster, as some of his rivals have. One to tuck away.

## BOM

News that DTI inspectors have been appointed at BOM Holdings will be of little immediate benefit to the company's 22,000 shareholders, however gratifying for the ginger group which has been pressing for an inquiry.

When the Stock Exchange ordered dealings to be suspended before Christmas 1988, BOM was attempting to issue a further 657 million shares to add to its existing 400 million share capital. The SE's move followed Press reports that the shares were being pushed by aggressive telephone salesmen. However, its action left shareholders without the protection of the listing agreement.

Last year, after failure to persuade the SE to relist its shares to enable a cash raising exercise, BOM's two main operating companies, Rose-lodge Kitchens and Just

Leather, went into receivership. BOM also announced that its principal asset, a 400-acre site in Kingsnorth, Kent, had been sold for £12 million in cash and a 20 per cent stake in Surelaunch, the private company set up to buy the land. Investors were denied a chance to vote on the deal.

Suspension does not relieve a board of its obligations under the listing agreement. But it does remove the SE's only effective sanction for non-compliance with its rules.

The question of whether it is better to keep alleged rule-breakers inside or outside the club is raised once more. Inside, they may be kept in line more effectively, although they gain authority through membership. Outside, they may get away with murder.

Meanwhile, BOM presses ahead with its £8.5 million suit against Arthur Andersen over the purchase of Alban-code, the holding company for Just Leather and Rose-lodge. Given that it was the BOM chairman who controlled the company which sold Alban-code, the action against Andersen is curious.

## Platinum set for strong showing

By Colin Campbell  
Mining Correspondent

Platinum is expected to remain a strongly-performing metal this year and, with the possible exception of gold, could well find itself at the head of the list among the other precious and non-ferrous metals performers.

Shearson Lehman Hutton, the securities house, in its annual review of the world platinum industry, forecasts an average platinum price of \$535 an ounce for the year.

During the course of 1989 the platinum price averaged \$509.88 an ounce and traded between \$465 an ounce and \$555 an ounce.

Last year the metal finished the year 6 per cent lower year-on-year, after 12 months of low investment and sluggish market activity.

"We expect conditions to be livelier in 1990," the survey says.

Shearson Lehman Hutton also suggests that if there are any bouts of speculative activity, then the metal's floor price during the course of this year should turn out to be solid at between \$465 and \$475 an ounce.

Platinum was traded at \$510.15 an ounce yesterday. Miss Rhona O'Connell and Mr Robert Davies, the analysts, say: "The level of investment demand - concentrated in Japan - will be the key to the market's overall performance."

However, Japanese investors are again expected to be attracted to the precious metals sector, and investment demand should quite easily absorb any small surplus of the metal.

Expansion in demand continues to be fuelled by the increasing level of concern over environmental matters, and platinum's use for anti-pollution control.

An increasing number of countries have the contentious subject of emission controls on their agendas, and exhaust systems are expected to be under some kind of control on a global basis by the turn of the century.

"During 1990, emission control catalysts are expected to overtake jewellery as the major end-user of platinum," the authors note.

## £12m hammering for gilt-edged market

Industry losses of £12 million forced four gilt-edged market-makers to close last year as the amount of business in the market declined, the Bank of England reveals in today's *Quarterly Bulletin*. This is substantially better than the £190 million lost in the two years after Big Bang in October 1986.

The losses came as the gilts turnover fell by an average of £250 million a day to £4 billion. The amount of gilts outstanding fell by 9 per cent to £129 billion as the Government continued its repurchasing programme. The number of bargains fell by up to 500 a day to 2,000. In all, eight GEMMs have been forced to close since Big Bang, leaving 19. The continuing losses and closures have reduced the GEMMs' capital from £595 million in 1986 to only £395 million at the end of 1989. The six largest firms now have 55 per cent of the market, up 5 per cent from last year.

## Ransomes in French buy

Ransomes, maker of grass-cutting machinery, has acquired Morel, a French company based in Yvetot near Rouen, for £6.9 million (£718,000). Morel manufactures a range of grass sweepers used for cleaning and clearing open spaces and will be integrated into Ransomes Commercial, which makes grass machinery for worldwide distribution.

## Profit down at Dunton

Dunton Group, the building materials supplier and property developer, saw pre-tax profits slide from £504,000 to £266,000 in the six months to end-November on turnover up by 5 per cent to £2.36 million. Earnings per share fell from 1.6p to 1.16p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 0.48p. The USM-placed shares lost 14p to 27p.

## Hazlewood expands

Hazlewood Foods is acquiring Luijckx Beheer for 25 million guilders (£7.5 million). The purchase will be satisfied by the issue of 3.31 million new Hazlewood ordinary shares conditionally placed by CCF Lawrence Trust with institutional investors at 218p per share.

Luijckx, based in Zandert in the Netherlands, employs 110 people producing a range of chocolate products. It made pre-tax profits of £14.06 million in the year to end-December, on turnover of £119.84 million and net assets of £19.37 million. Mr Dennis Jones, finance director, said the acquisition will enlarge the grocery products division in Europe.

## Jameel attack on Hartwell

Jameel, the Saudi Arabian group bidding £151 million for Hartwell, the motor dealership, claims Hartwell has resorted to its defence document to an arbitrary nine-year profits record which failed to disclose a sharp fall in pre-tax profits between 1980 and 1981, and has included earnings from only the motor division.

## Govett fund for Hungary

John Govett, the fund management group, yesterday unveiled its Hungarian Investment Company Fund which is raising up to \$100 million (£58.9 million) to invest in the country's shares. Commitments have been received for \$75 million and applications close next Wednesday. Dealings are due to begin on February 20.

## Allied franchises sold

Allied-Lyons has sold a number of its Normand motor distribution franchises to their existing managements and Philidrew Ventures for about £30 million. Mr Struan Wiley is to be chief executive of a newly-formed company called the Normand Motor Group, and will resign from the Allied-Lyons board.

The new business will cover eight passenger, three commercial vehicles and two motorcycle marques. Philidrew Ventures will own 50 per cent, and Allied-Lyons will retain a 10 per cent stake. Pre-tax profits of £4 million are being forecast this year, on a turnover of £180 million.

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## Berisford in error over dates

Berisford International claims an "administrative error" occurred in the compilation of its 1989 annual report sent to shareholders this week.

It says the March 7 date given for the resignation of Mr Mervyn Ansher from the main board was, in fact, the day he resigned from a number of group subsidiaries.

He resigned from the main board on May 10, the day his departure was reported to the Stock Exchange.

## GPA target

GPA, the Shannon-based aircraft leasing group, wants to buy about 10 per cent of new aircraft production, not 25 per cent as quoted in *The Times* yesterday. As a result, it would keep its 40 per cent share of the aircraft leasing market, which accounts for about 25 per cent of the total new aircraft market.

## Europa stake

Europa Minerals Group has lifted its stake in Burmine, the Australian gold producer and explorer, from 19.8 per cent to 41.8 per cent for Aus\$8.3 million (£3.84 million).

## Mine pull-out

Bougainville, the mine in Papua New Guinea plagued by attacks from tribesmen, says all employees are now likely to be evacuated.

## ADT holding

ADT now holds 14.7 million ordinary shares in Christies International, or 8.5 per cent of the total share capital.

## British Gas defends prices against overcharging claims

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

British Gas has answered criticism that it charges large industrial users of gas more than their European competitors have to pay.

It said the price has changed considerably in their favour over the past 12 months, compared with prices paid by their counterparts in mainland Europe.

The Commons Energy Select Committee is due to report next week into allegations of overcharging.

Figures collated by British Gas, which compare prices at January 1, 1990, show that industrial and commercial firm gas prices in Britain were close to the European average, and that prices for smaller gas loads were generally lower in Britain than elsewhere.

British Gas, chaired by Mr Robert Evans, said there had been significant increases in gas prices in most Continental



Robert Evans: awaits report countries during 1989. Gas prices to British industry had, by contrast, shown stability or an overall decrease during 1989 for the majority of customers. British prices had further declined in relation to Continental prices as a result of variations in currency exchange rates.

The January 1 figures show that customers in Britain who buy their supplies on gas

tariffs - those who use up to 25,000 therms a year - enjoy gas prices which are the lowest or second-lowest in Europe.

At 100,000 therms a year, British gas users pay between 32.5p and 33p a therm, depending on pattern of usage. If such customers are able to aggregate their loads as part of large volume contracts at a number of different premises prices may be several pence lower still.

Continental prices range between 27.5p to 32.7p in Italy and 28.4p to 49p in West Germany.

Customers using a million therms a year in Britain pay at the most between 27.7p and 28.8p a therm, again depending on the seasonal pattern of use. They, too, can lower the price significantly by aggregating the load.

Continental prices range between 23.7p in the Netherlands and up to 38.7p in Germany.

## Most funds 'run curbs on SA'

By Graham Searjeant

Restrictions on investment in South African companies and on British companies with a strong involvement in South Africa are widespread throughout Britain's pension funds, a new survey suggests.

Fund managers responding to the survey said that a majority of funds by value were subject to some kind of restriction on investment in South Africa and had a total

prohibition on South African shares.

The survey was carried out by Pensions & Investment Research Consultants, an adviser on funds' social responsibility.

PIRC received replies between November and late January from 29 fund management groups responsible for £130 billion of British pension fund money, representing nearly half the industry total.

Nearly two-thirds ran funds with restrictions on investing in British companies with South African interests, the most popular test being 5 per cent of group profits.

Most of the restrictions were imposed by clients. Only six of fund managers avoiding South Africa operated because of their own house rules.

## Business as usual as the Argentine currency goes into freefall

## Streetwise on the route Austral

From David Brewerton, Buenos Aires

A small group of British Members of Parliament will return from Argentina this morning with some tips for Mr John Major should sterling get into trouble during the run-up to the Budget.

While Mr George Foulkes and others trotted along to do their bit for Anglo-Argentine relations by taking coffee with President Carlos Menem, the austral went into freefall.

In the space of a week the Argentine currency has dropped from 1,600 to the dollar to 3,000.

Such movements are hardly headline news in Buenos Aires, or anywhere else in Latin America for that matter. But yesterday's collapse of nearly 25 per cent before lunch had the experts rushing about. The experts are found not in the Ministry of Finance, but on the streets.

Currency rates are a constant topic of discussion here in the same way as house prices in Britain.

Yesterday was no different. There was no particular air of crisis, but the queue at Lloyds Bank was longer than usual. People in bank queues were offered soft currency for their places.

Along the still-fashionable shopping street, where Harrods can be found, there was a constant arbitrage on the rate.

Lolty's, one of the hundreds of leather shops in the centre of the city, was once again setting the rate at 2,900 early on, but others were lagging at 2,800. In the Sheraton Hotel, which probably sees more dollars than the central bank, the best offer of the day was 2,300.

Shopping with credit cards was suspended for the day, unless the customer

consented to have his docket made up in dollars. Shopkeepers here have long since wised up to the damage that credit-card transactions can inflict on profit margins.

But there is a rush to spend, nevertheless, to convert cash to goods as fast as possible. In an effort to stem the flow, to flatten the spiral, the government converted savers' seven-day austral bank deposits into 10-year, dollar-denominated bonds.

The bonds are now trading at about 35 cents on the dollar, and there is a rumour they will be reconverted into 90-day austral deposits.

Nobody bothers to get angry any more. They still have the tango, and French champagne on the supermarket shelves at under \$10 a bottle.

هكذا من الأصل



# Forecast for Yardley sale slashed to £350m

By Melinda Wittstock

SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceuticals combine still struggling to find a buyer for its cosmetics brands, is unlikely to receive more than £350 million compared with original expectations of about £800 million for the businesses.

Mr Bob Bauman, the chief executive, admitted that the proposed sale of the group's cosmetics businesses "is not going as well as wished," and confirmed that SKB is expecting to receive "far less" than originally sought.

In Tokyo at the launch of the group's Japanese subsidiary, SmithKline Beecham Seiyaku, Mr Bauman blamed "overall softness of the market" for the absence of poten-

tial buyers of its cosmetic operations, which include the Yardley, Letheric, Margaret Astor, Montell, Lancaster and Montana brands.

Mr Bauman, who last autumn was still hoping to sell the division to one buyer for £600 million before admitting in December that SKB would receive significantly less than originally expected, said the group now expects much less.

After initially running into difficulties finding a buyer last autumn, SKB opted to split its cosmetics division into separate European and British units, with a consortium backed by management and led by Mr Bernard Nicholson, the Yardley chairman, still thought to be a likely contender for the British side despite well-publicized diffi-

culties in the management buyout sector.

Analysts, who had downgraded the expected price-tag to £450 million in December, now say SKB would be lucky to receive between £300 million and £350 million for both operations.

"Companies are finding it hard to find buyers even for good businesses right now. Even if they look very cheap, the problem would be buyers face is how to pay for it," said a cosmetics and household products analyst at BZW.

It is believed SKB's efforts to sell the cosmetics divisions have also been thwarted by the recent sale of rival cosmetic businesses, such as Fabergé and Elizabeth Arden which Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group, bought last summer for

\$1.55 billion (£912 million).

Unilever, Revlon of the US, France's L'Oréal and Japan's Shiseido have reportedly not shown any interest either in the British side or the continental operations.

But Mr Bauman has not given up hope. "We believe it will be a success but it will take a longer period of time," SKB, which in December sold its LHU adhesives business for £27.5 million as well as its North American Calgon household products business for £66 million, needs the proceeds of the cosmetics disposal to reduce a gearing of about 200 per cent.

"It had pledged it would get its gearing down to 100 per cent by its financial year-end," said an analyst. SKB's shares fell 7p to 537p.

## Morton man set to join tunnel

By Graham Searjeant

Financial Editor

An oil industry executive with a reputation for tough and innovative methods of organizing sub-contractors is the strong favourite to join Eurotunnel as executive director in charge of the tunnel construction contract with Transmanche Link.

Mr Alastair Fleming, a director of BP Exploration, was previously a protégé of Mr Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, at Britoil, where Mr Morton made his own reputation as its first chief executive.

Mr Fleming is credited with the successful development of the Clyde Field for Britoil ahead of schedule by use of new project management methods.

These involved using the former Linwood car factory near Glasgow to bring the engineering and design teams of all the main sub-contractors for the project under one roof. This practice has since become widely used on big resource projects.

The recruitment of Mr Fleming is likely to depend on his job specification, his executive authority and his relationship with Dr Tony Ridley, the British joint managing director, who is responsible for the contract under the joint chairmen.

TML has a good relationship with Dr Ridley, who has long experience of underground railway projects, but it has been pressing for a chief executive with full authority to take detailed control decisions for Eurotunnel.

It is understood that Mr Morton would also prefer Dr Ridley to stay. However, he wishes to retain a tough approach to the contractors if he stands back to concentrate on raising more than £1.5 billion extra funding.

Eurotunnel is due to raise a rights issue from shareholders not earlier than May for up to £500 million.

The latest Eurotunnel progress report said that a record five kilometres of tunnel was bored in January.

However, M André Bénard, Eurotunnel's French co-chairman, said that more than 60 kilometres would have to be bored this year to meeting construction targets.

The English end of the triple tunnel is slightly more behind schedule than the French is ahead of schedule, but those working at the English end have begun to catch up this year after coping with geological problems.

## COMMENT

# Lloyd Webber's exit is far from really useful

Like the proverbial clown who yearns to play Hamlet, Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber wants to be remembered for a more serious body of work than the middlebrow popular musicals that have made his fortune. But serious works, unlike *Cats* and *Evita*, do not pull in the crowds, and the composer has obligingly taken his Really Useful Group private rather than ask his loyal small shareholders to weather the profits storm.

The use of the past tense is deliberate: the owners of the 47.5 per cent of the group not already in the hands of Mr Lloyd Webber's bidding vehicle have been offered a *fait accompli*, not to mention the rough end of the conductor's baton. There are precious few courses of action open to the non-executive directors, not to mention Mercury Asset Management, which has 17 per cent, and the estimated 3,000 private shareholders.

The last management buyout to arouse controversy, as opposed merely to financial grief for its backers, was at Magnet. It prompted some useful guidelines from the National Association of Pension Funds, which wanted all information available to the insiders to be made generally available. The details of Mr Lloyd Webber's subsequent contract with the successor company have not been revealed, nor is there a three-year profit forecast, as favoured by institutional investors.

The NAPF suggested shareholders

should be told early of an impending buyout. Schroders, the merchant bank acting for the non-executive directors of RUG, only learnt of the terms some eight hours before they hit the screens.

Most essentially, the NAPF made much of the need to appoint strong non-executives and an independent financial adviser as early as possible. Schroders itself originally brought RUG to the market; of the four non-executives, one has links with the bank and two, Lord Gowrie and Mr Melvyn Bragg, are hardly on the board for their high profile in the City.

Shareholders have little to complain about in the shares' performance, having doubled their money since early 1986. But assessing a fair take-out price is virtually impossible — hardly a single analyst looks at the group, even its own brokers are precluded from making a current-year forecast, while judging the value of any musical copyright remains an inexact science.

Had Mr Lloyd Webber wanted to exit the City on a high note, he might have considered another course of action; for example, a conditional agreement to purchase Robert Maxwell's shares subject to the acceptance of his offer by the minority shareholders in the light of an independent assessment of the company's earning power. This would have at least allowed those investors who have followed him and his productions so faithfully over the years to make up their own minds.

## No need to ape the mark

The sudden prospect of a new German currency union within months has set everyone in the West worrying. The French fear that an expanded mark could overwhelm the franc and all the other ERM currencies long before they have a chance to put a French hand on the levers of power through a unified European central bank. The British, and most others, are simply worried that they might have to raise their interest rates.

This will surely be the case if the dealers' short-term thinking carries the day. They have taken the line, customary in the foreign exchange markets since the days of dollar strength five years ago, that the prospect of higher interest rates in a strong currency makes it even more attractive. Up went the mark again.

But spare a thought for reality in Bonn, Frankfurt and Berlin. The opening of the East initially boosted the mark by offering an increased supply of skilled migrant labour and new markets. As events have moved on, the costs to the West German economy are becoming more apparent. Currency union, whether formal, or de facto, will bring

strain rather than gain.

That explains why Karl-Otto Pöhl at the Bundesbank has been the voice of caution in the face of Bonn's fast-growing enthusiasm. To politicians, the priority is to stop the flood of less productive East German immigrants and the drastic fiscal implications.

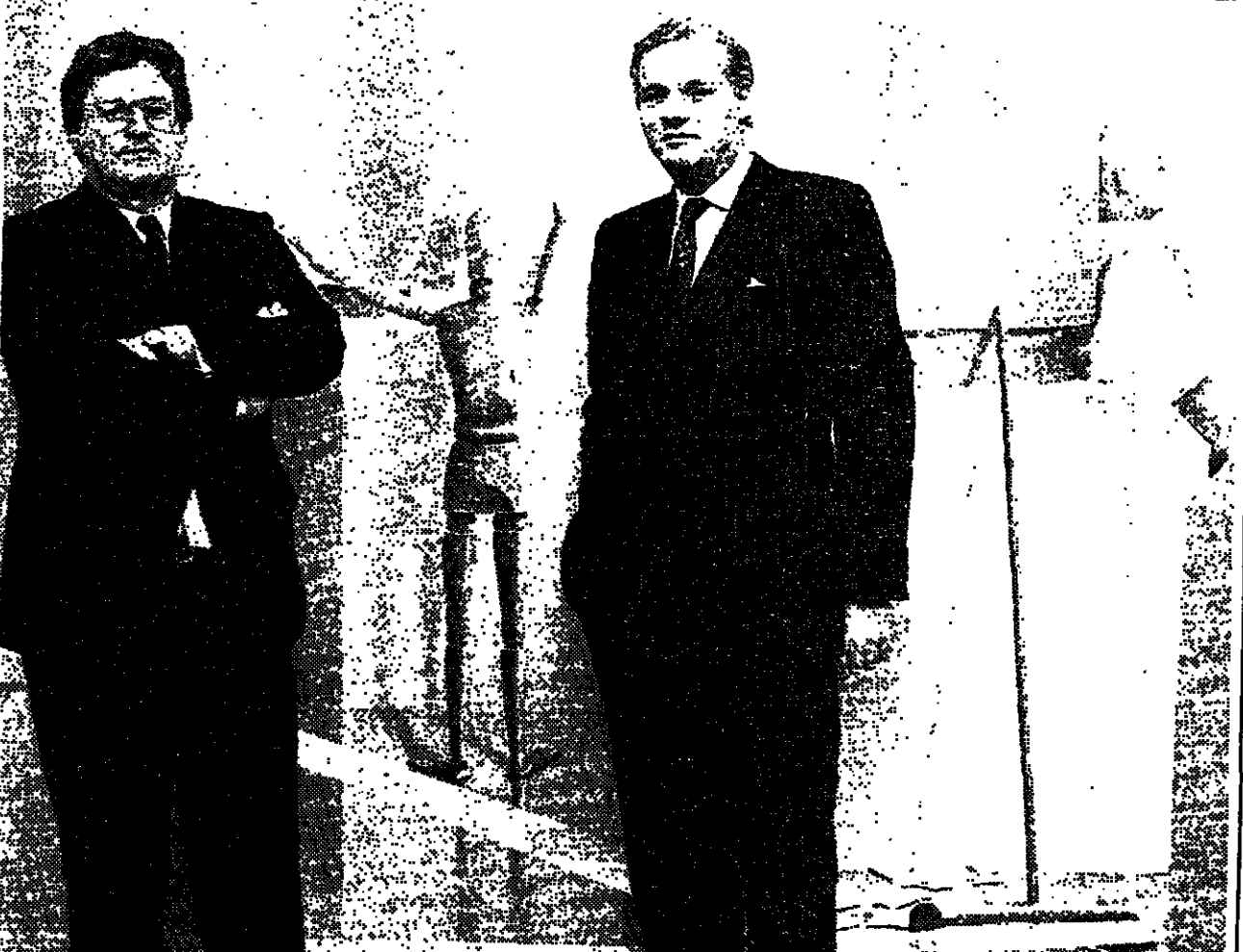
If some of the strain can be shifted from West German public spending and taxes, for which they are responsible, to the currency and monetary policy, which is largely down to Herr Pöhl, so much the better.

None of this, however, argues that the mark should be stronger in the medium-term. The Bundesbank will suffer no nonsense in its area of responsibility.

Herr Pöhl fears that such revolutionary changes will undermine the basic historic strength of the mark as well as making higher interest rates certain in the short term. When responding to those higher interest rates, other ERM members might like to take this longer-term view and the dollar experience into account. That might suggest not slavishly following the Germans or the mark, which would help Britain to do the same.

## Swiss bank on Midland chief

MARK PEPPER



By Neil Bennett

Mr Rudi Bogal, left, Midland Bank's group treasurer, is to become chief executive of Swiss Bank Corporation's London branch — and he is pictured in front of SBC's Felix Felgenhauer mural in

Swiss Bank House with Mr Hans de Gier, whom he is replacing. Mr de Gier is becoming president to work on co-ordinating Swiss Bank's European corporate finance business.

Mr Bogal was a managing director at Midland Montagu

and sat on the main bank's executive committee as treasurer. He in turn is being replaced by Mr David Clark, who until now was the treasurer of the London branch of Commerzbank, the West German bank. He inherits a banking and securities busi-

ness which has been rationalized since Big Bang, and absorbed Savory Miln, the broker.

Mr de Gier plans to create a European corporate finance business to cope with the increasing number of cross-border acquisitions.

## St Modwen rises 89% but sounds a warning

The continuing strength of the Midlands property market has helped St Modwen Properties, the Birmingham developer, to lift pre-tax profits by 89 per cent to £10.1 million.

As the company continues to build an investment division, net assets per share have also risen sharply — by 41 per cent to 41p. The portfolio's annual rent roll of £3.8 million is, Mr Stan Clarke, chairman, says, enough to cover group overheads.

Mr Clarke also gave a

warning that the year ahead was likely to be more difficult for the property market, and the retail sector in particular.

Turnover rose 115 per cent to £37.2 million in the year to November. Earnings per share rose 77 per cent to 6.2p. The final dividend rose 75 per cent to 1.4p a share from 0.8p. No interim payment is made.

Mr Clarke says the uniform business rate may stimulate the company's markets in the Midlands and the North.

Times, page 24

## Union Discount shuns IEP board approach

Union Discount, the discount house, has rebuffed attempts by Sir Ron Brerley, its 28.4 per cent shareholder, to join the board.

The company has revealed that Sir Ron asked to nominate a representative from IEP Securities, his investment group, to become a director last November.

However, Mr Graeme Gilchrist, Union's chief executive, said: "We did not think that an investment director from IEP would add value to

the company, so we refused." Union's shares rose 18p to 603p. At this level, IEP is thought to have made a paper profit of £3.4 million.

Union's net profits rose 304 per cent to £10.5 million in the year to end-December. The result was helped by futures trading and a first-time contribution from Winter-flood Securities. The final dividend is being raised 3p to 21.5p to make a year's payout of 33p, up 10 per cent.

Times, page 24

## Bonus bans holiday blues

The ban on staff holidays at Union Discount appears to have been lifted. With base rates now two per cent more than they were a year ago, Graeme Gilchrist, the general chief executive of the discount house — which unveiled its results yesterday — has concluded that "Major has the economy right on course." "This time a year ago we were saying that the Chancellor is saying the same thing," he says. "We are now much more optimistic — and think interest rates will start coming down in the final quarter, probably in September." Indeed, in the City Diary 12 months ago, when base rates stood at 13 per cent, Gilchrist was quoted as saying: "It has got to be painful. I shall feel that monetary policy is working when I hear members of my staff saying that they can't afford to take their holidays." And, clearly a man who believes in punning his money where his mouth is to give his staff the wherewithal to take their holidays. For on Tuesday he told them that they would all — "from the messenger up" — receive a 9 per cent profit-related bonus. "It went down quite well," he says.

## Coutts coup

The management buyout at Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group was handled by none other than Coutts & Co, a surprised City

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Looking over the figures

Uncharacteristically nervous ahead of the launch of his new collection of footwear and clothing for Asda, George Davis, the ex-Next boss, was described as "ecstatic" when the preview party in Asda's new Rochampton flagship store drew to a close at 11 pm — two hours later than scheduled. The 250 analysts, shareholders and journalists downed Asda champagne and pizza, and made appreciative

noises as they inspected his wares. "This belongs in Oxford Street," said one. To prove the point they then spent almost £3,000 at the one cash till which had been opened up for their convenience. "It would have been a lot more except for the fact that the cashier couldn't accept Amex cards," said one organizer. And he also revealed that the assembled City folk's most popular purchase was lingerie.

learned yesterday. The Top People's bank has never been bracketed with the likes of Charterhouse but has nonetheless lent Lloyd Webber the £50 million needed to take his company private. "I banked with them when I was at school," the millionaire composer ex-

plained. "Tim Rice and I walked into their branch in Fleet Street on a whim and asked if we could open an account. To our surprise they said yes."

### Lifted-off

"He is in a meeting" must be the most common secretarial response to any reporter's request to speak to an evasive director on the telephone. But More O'Ferrall, the outdoor advertising contractor whose expected profits for 1990 have been downgraded by £1 million as a result of storm damage, came up with something far more ingenious this week. The only director who was not abroad or simply "out of the office" — company secretary Peter Hall — was, a colleague was assured, "stuck in the lift" at the company's Mayfair premises for most of the afternoon during the day in question.

## Blair's text for today

If conglomerates analyst Angus Blair, from Kitcat & Aitken, is overheard muttering verses from the Bible to himself, you should not necessarily draw the conclusion that he has become a born-again Christian. For it is far more likely that he will be rehearsing his lines for a production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* based on *The Sobbin' Women* by Stephen Vincent Benet — being performed at Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, from February 20 to 24 by the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society. And Blair, who plays a preacher, promises: "It won't be a village hall production, we've spent £15,000 on it." Other City notables among the 25-strong cast include Warburg market-maker Robert Jolly, and Jeremy Lewis, joint managing director of Seymour Pierce Butterfield. The play is being directed by architect David Taylor, who is better known for having designed the tube station at Heathrow Airport's Terminal 4. And as for the tickets — which are priced at £5.50 and £6.50 — they are being sold by one June King, who, as luck would have it, works for a firm renowned for its placing power... Cazenove.

Quote from a local newspaper in the United States: "Work is something that when we have it we wish we did not; when we do not have it we wish we did, and the object of most of it is to be able to afford not to do any some day."

Carol Leonard

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# Charterhall hopeful as liquidator is called in to parent

By David Tweed, Sydney, and Angela Mackay

Westmex, the Australian parent of Charterhall, the British footwear and textile company, has gone into provisional liquidation with debts of about Aus\$200 million (£89 million).

But Charterhall, which is 60 per cent-owned by Westmex, is still being supported by its main lender, the State Bank of New South Wales.

Charterhall owes the Bank of NSW about Aus\$75 million. However, the bank and Coopers & Lybrand, Westmex's provisional liquidator, are hopeful that the British company, which had its shares suspended at 9½p in December, will stay in business.

CIBC Australia is owed about Aus\$15 million by Charterhall and Banque Nationale de Paris about Aus\$5 million.

Liquidators were appointed after National Australia Bank (NAB) broke ranks with other lenders and appointed a receiver manager to one of Westmex's key subsidiaries, Ancol, the stationary company. Westmex has been struggling since November when its shares started slip-



Selling property: Goward ping on the Australian Stock Exchange.

The market appeared convinced that Mr Russell Goward, who controlled Westmex and Charterhall, would be the next high-profile entrepreneur to become the victim of high gearing in the wake of Qintex, Hooker Corporation, Chase Corporation and Bond Corporation.

Mr Goward had often been quoted as saying he was only interested in unfashionable, recession-proof businesses with solid cash flow. However, negative market sentiment has apparently undone this strategy.

The New South Wales Supreme Court was told yester-

day a second debt and interest moratorium agreed to by lenders, expired last Monday.

Westmex said it was told that NAB had appointed Mr John Murphy of Arthur Andersen, the accountant, as receiver to Ancol to protect a Aus\$13.9 million loan.

The company sought to preempt similar moves by other creditors with a successful application in the NSW Supreme Court for the appointment of Mr Tony Sherlock of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, as provisional liquidator to 13 companies in the Westmex group.

Mr Murphy said last night that he was preparing an information memorandum on Ancol to offer it for sale to recover the NAB's money.

Mr Mark Chapple, Westmex's legal representative, said directors were not prepared to concede any of the companies were insolvent.

The court was told that Westpac Banking Corporation was another creditor. The hearing of Westmex's wind-up application is set for April 6.

Mr Goward said all of his companies' assets, as well as his own properties, were for sale to help raise funds to restore confidence.

## Short-term views fuel buyouts, says Bank

By Neil Bennett

An increasingly short-term outlook among British venture capitalists has caused the surge in investment in management buyouts, says the Bank of England.

In an article on venture capital in its *Quarterly Bulletin*, published today, the Bank says that institutional managers have come under increasing pressure to show above-average short-term returns. This has led to concentration on management buyouts, which promise quicker exit routes, such as flotations, than start-up companies.

In 1988, buyouts took up 62 per cent of venture capital funds, up from only 28 per cent five years before. In the same period, total venture capital investment surged to £1.01 billion.

However, the number of companies in which investments were made grew by only 43 to 625 in the five years. The average investment grew from £392,000 to £1.6 million because of support for large buyouts.

The Bank says that short-termism is forcing venture capitalists to report more regularly to investors, offer minimum performance targets, and eliminate initial investment fees.

## Caravans find a berth on SE



Management will retain a 40% holding: John Eastwood, managing director of ABI Leisure

## £30m price tag on ABI

ABI Leisure, Britain's biggest caravan company, is to have a berth on the main market from February 20.

It will join the Stock Exchange with a capitalization of £30 million by way of a placing organized by N.M. Rothschild, the merchant bank.

Mr John Eastwood, the managing director, said ABI

Leisure dominates the British caravan industry with a 24 per cent market share.

It made pre-tax profits of £4.3 million last year on sales of £56.6 million.

Full details of the placing price and the number of shares to be issued will be announced shortly before the flotation.

But Mr Eastwood said it is

intended the management will retain a 40 per cent holding.

Existing institutional backers will keep a 15 per cent stake, with the remainder of the equity being split between new institutions and the public.

Proceeds from the placing will help pay off borrowings of £7 million and finance growth.

## Mercurius lifts stake in Chloride to 6.17%

By Melinda Wittstock

Mercurius SA, the Swedish investment vehicle of Mr Peter Gyllenhammar, the elusive financier and chairman of Volvo, has lifted its stake in Chloride, the troubled British battery maker, from 5.1 per cent to 6.17 per cent.

Chloride, whose calls on Mercurius to clarify intentions after its purchase of the initial 5.1 per cent late last month, have not been returned, was unperturbed. Mr Michael Vass, finance director, said: "We have offered to do so but have had no contact." Mercurius, part of Mercurius Gruppen, the Swedish industrial holding company whose president and chief executive is Mr Gyllenhammar, has wide interests in shipping, offshore energy, commerce and investment banking.

Sources close to Gyllenhammar & Partners, which has about 19 per cent of North Sea Assets, the Edinburgh investment group, say Mercurius Gruppen has been intent on raising its profile in Britain for about a year.

Mercurius has also built up a 12.6 per cent stake in Phoenix Timber Group.

Chloride would be likely to fetch £125 million or 52p per share in a bid. The shares were unchanged at 38p.

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## Stronger oil price lifts Triton Europe

By Sam Parkhouse

Triton Europe swelled its after-tax profits more than threefold to £1.6 million for the six months to November due to the success of production in the Paris Basin and the substantially stronger oil price in the period.

Mr Pat MacDonald, the general manager, puts a 26 per cent increase in turnover to £15.3 million entirely down to higher oil prices.

Oil analysts at Kitcat & Aitken, the broker, said that Brent Crude, for instance, traded at \$18.5 a barrel at the end of 1989 compared with the \$15.16 it started the year.

Triton's after-tax profits of £407,000 last time were a reflection of the discouraging effect a lower oil price had on the level of production onshore in the Paris Basin.

Mr Herbert Brewer, the chairman, said the introduction of horizontal penetration of wells was an important

feature in the Villeperdue field, and the technique can result in significantly greater production compared with conventional wells.

Earnings per share rose from 0.49p to 1.89p, but as last time no interim dividend is being paid.

Triton Energy, the US parent company, is progressing with its planned disposal of its 59 per cent stake in Triton Europe.

Mr MacDonald said the management will not be taking over this holding and it is to be placed with institutions by Credit Suisse First Boston.

Provident Mutual and Legal & General at present hold about 12 per cent of the company.

The shares gained 1p to 232p, which compares with a price of 176p prevalent when the parent company's intentions were announced last week.

## Texas Air slumps to record loss

By Our City Staff

Texas Air Corp, citing heavy losses at its Eastern Airlines subsidiary, has said that it lost \$362.8 million (£213 million) in the fourth quarter, up from a loss of \$224.4 million a year earlier.

For the year, Texas had an \$885.6 million loss.

Although rising fuel costs and less traffic hurt all airlines in the last quarter, investors have been particularly worried about Texas Air because of its high debt and interest costs.

Mr Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Texas Air, said Eastern's attempt to reorganize under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code had had a large effect on the parent company's results.

Eastern had a loss of \$282.6 million for the quarter, compared with a loss of \$101.7 million in the corresponding quarter of 1988. For the year, the carrier lost \$852.3 million.

Texas Air's other airline subsidiary, Continental Airlines, lost \$56.1 million in the quarter, down from a \$99.2 million loss a year ago.

Under the reorganization plan, Eastern hopes to break even in this year's second half.

For the year, Continental made a \$3.1 million profit, compared with a \$315.5 million loss in 1988.

## Managers 'lack job awareness'

By Colin Narbrough

Too many managers are over-optimistic about their ability to cope with the shrinking youth labour market, according to Dr David Parsons, manpower adviser to the National Economic Development Office.

This is because of their lack of awareness about wider structural shifts in the labour force, he writes in the latest *Employment Gazette*.

Dr Parsons notes that a recent survey of 2,000 employers showed only one in five knew that the overall size of the workforce would grow in the early 1990s. Only one in seven expected a substantial fall in school and college leavers.

But the demand for qualified personnel is expected to continue to rise, posing a further problem for recruiters heavily dependent on well-qualified young people.

By the turn of the century, the adult labour force is expected to be 2.3 million larger than in 1988, more than offsetting, in numbers if not age terms, a 1.3 million decline in the under-25s during the period.

The survey showed 10 per cent of employers were considering changing their human resources strategies.

## Lack of computer staff worries firms

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A shortage of computer staff is one of the most crucial concerns among British companies throughout the country, according to a new survey into skills shortages.

One in five company managers and employees questioned said it was one of the most pressing issues facing the firm.

Few of those asked gave poor transportation as a worry but many believed a lack of foreign language skills and poor child care facilities must be addressed if British industry is to thrive in the coming years.

The survey by Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, of 104 of the Times 1,000

companies, also found high concerns over the emerging shortage in school leavers.

Few companies or employees are worried about environmental problems at work with smoking a very low concern.

Most of those asked were, however, deeply concerned about the training of workers with almost 25 per cent of companies and half employees convinced Government should play a better role.

A deep-seated resistance to re-location within Europe was also registered.

A third of firms frowned on the benefits of working from home and almost quarter said they did not approve of job sharing.



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# N American firms to invest £4bn in UK cable television

By Melinda Wittstock

North American cable television and telephone companies will have invested £4 billion to connect 14.5 million British homes to cable television by 1993, industry sources claim.

Cash-rich US and Canadian telecommunications companies, seeking a way into a deregulated European telephone and cable market from 1992, have revived the fortunes of an industry which suffered throughout the 1980s from City unease about the high cost of installing networks and slow rates of return.

Though the City remains sceptical, large North American regional telephone operators — known as "Baby Bells" — have already transformed the industry by committing hundreds of millions of pounds to the British franchises they own in the approach to 1992 when the review of British Telecom's and Mercury's duopoly is complete.

US West — a regional telephone company covering 14 US states with interests in eight British cable franchises and applications tendered for four others that have been advertised — is spending £200 million in the next few years laying cable that will reach about 3 million people.

"Our goal is to lay down telephone wires as we put down the cable so we can offer British people better and cheaper services," said Miss Bonnie Blecha, US West's vice-president of cable operations.

She said US West, with

annual sales of more than \$9 billion (£5.35 billion), expects to see a large return from its investment in the late 1990s, when 40 per cent of British homes will be connected to cable.

Maclean Hunter, the Canadian publisher and printer which is also one of the biggest cable operators in the US and Canada, is investing £250 million on its five existing British cable franchises to serve 860,000 homes.

Mr Scott Colbran, senior vice-president of the UK and Canadian cable television division, said Maclean Hunter also wished to install a compatible telephone network in its franchise areas — east Lancashire, Suffolk (Ipswich), Devon (Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay), Staffordshire (Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme) and Cheshire.

Maclean Hunter, the first to build cable systems in North America in the 1950s, said it expects a total penetration of 40 per cent by the year 2000, compared to the 60 per cent level seen in the US ten years after cable took off in the 1970s.

Other North American cable and telephone companies which have allocated hundreds of millions of pounds on their UK franchises include: Comcast, Jones Interchange, Videotron, United Artists International, Bell Canada, Pacific Telefilm and Southwestern Bell. Smaller US investors include Masada, Cablecast and Crosscountry Cable.

In line with a surge of investment interest from

across the Atlantic, the number of franchises awarded and advertised picked up dramatically. In early 1989, only 30 had been awarded. The Cable Authority said another 57 franchises had since been allocated, 30 have been advertised and applications accepted, 20 are being advertised and 29 are coming up for advertisement soon.

Mr Jon Davey, director general of the Cable Authority, said 136 franchises covering 14.5 million British homes will be in operation by 1995, costing about £4 billion. "Virtually all of the money is coming from North America," he said.

Mr Davey expects flotations among the cable franchises in the mid-1990s as the industry becomes profitable.

He said British cable television companies and their North American investors are hoping the duopoly review will make them independent local public telecom operators so they may offer subscribers a telephone service and the benefits of cable — including home shopping and banking, access to data bases and video conference networks, as well as 50 television channels, 20 radio stations and access to satellite programming — much more cheaply, given economies of scale.

At the moment, franchisees are able to act only as agents for BT and Mercury, while both British telephone companies are prevented from using their existing telephone networks to deliver television programming to customers.

# City welcomes 'U-turn on TV'

By Martin Waller

The Government's apparent "U-turn" over independent television — emphasizing programming quality — has been welcomed by City analysts.

They believe it has made it more likely existing broadcasters will retain their franchises after the next bidding round.

Shares in medium-sized and larger television companies have added a few pence — against the market trend — since the weekend announcement, with the exception of TVS Entertainment, off 10p and still depressed by the MTM acquisition.

Miss Brown Madrox, television analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said the suggestion by Mr David Mellor, Home Office Minister, that franchisees would not necessarily go to the highest bidder but that suppliers of outstanding programmes could be given preference, was "the best of both worlds" for the Government.

It meant the authorities would retain some control of the ITV network but the Treasury would also benefit from the income from bidders in the franchise round, she said.

Mr Chris Akers, at Citicorp Securities, said Mr Mellor's stance, which indicated the Government's interpretation of the relevant clause of the Broadcasting Bill being debated by a Commons

committee this week, favoured the incumbents over other media groups attempting to force their way into the British television industry.

The ITV companies have been concerned that programme standards would fall if strict financial criteria were allowed to govern the franchise round.

"I think there will be a feeling of *déjà vu* when people wake up in January 1992 — we're going to see pretty much the same corporate logos," said Mr Akers.

"It makes it very difficult for an outsider to put up a realistic application."

Before that, however, ITV contractors would have to weather the current downturn in advertising revenue, with a 5 per cent drop likely for the first quarter of 1990, he added.

Miss Madrox thought programme quality would have to be affected, even under the less commercial arrangement suggested by Mr Mellor, because television companies would still have to put up money out of their production budgets for the new franchises.

She thought that "for *déjà vu* to be a small number of existing holders would have to lose their franchises, to avoid the appearance of a cosy cartel which merely assigned ITV areas to the existing holders."



Stance on quality: David Mellor, the Home Office Minister

# HK interest rate future 'a success'

From Lulu Ya, Hong Kong

The launch of a new interest rate futures contract has been hailed as a resounding success, heralding the revival of the colony's once-battered and still-stagnant futures market.

More than 1,200 91-day Hong Kong interbank offered hands in just 30 minutes of trading yesterday, easily

surpassing the expected volume of 1,000.

It was the first new product launched on the futures market since May 1986, and is considered vital to restore confidence in the colony's futures exchange since a HK\$4 billion (£307 million) bailout by the government following the October 1987 crash.

Mr David Nendick, Sec-

retary for Monetary Affairs, said the contract had been welcomed by major Hong Kong financial institutions.

"There are people who would like to protect themselves against the risks of interest rates going up or down, so there will be a market. I think there is every sign that it is going to be a success," he added.

# Moody's cuts Japanese bank ratings

New York — Moody's Investors Service has lowered the debt ratings of three Japanese banks because of the problems they face in the Japanese property market.

Senior debt ratings at Sumitomo Trust and Banking, the world's second largest bank, and at Mitsubishi Trust and Banking, the fourth-largest, were reduced to A-2, from A-1. Senior debt of the Mizuho Trust and Banking, the eleventh largest bank, were reduced to A-3, from A-2. Japanese interest rates have increased sharply, and prices of some property in urban areas in Japan have quadrupled since the mid-1980s. (New York Times Service)

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# PE Kemp drops curtain on payout

By Philip Pangalos

The final dividend has been dropped at PE Kemp, the Third Market theatrical engineer and scenery builder, after the company revealed it had slid into the red following a further decline in trading.

This compares with a payment of 1.5p last time, making a total of 0.5p this year, against 2p last year. The shares fell by 5p to 28p on the news.

The pre-tax loss is £381,000 for the year to end-October, against last time's profit of £177,000, resulting in a 8.49p loss per share, compared with 2.74p of earnings previously.

A combination of lower spending on production, coupled with shows running longer and Government cuts in arts subsidies led to a slip in turnover from £3.32 million to £3.12 million. There was an extraordinary loss of £94,000 relating to recoupment costs of Unit One Production Services, the 25 per cent-owned trade show and conference production services company.

Cost-cutting measures have been introduced and attempts are being made to reduce bank borrowings. Current bank debt is in excess of £600,000.

# LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Call				Put			
	Strike	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan
Ald Lyon (408)	460	47	55	69	8	18	20		
ASDA	500	20	32	47	27	36	36		
Bent	110	9	14	18	9	11	13		
(100)	130	10	12	15	10	12	14		
Bent	1000	52	80	110	32	45	45		
(750)	1200	52	80	110	32	45	45		
Bent	1100	13	18	24	13	18	24		
(750)	1300	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	2000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	2200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	3000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	3200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	4000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	4200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	5000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	5200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	6000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	6200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	7000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	7200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
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(750)	8200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	9000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
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(750)	29200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	30000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
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(750)	34200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	35000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
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Bent	36000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	36200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	37000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	37200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	38000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	38200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	39000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	39200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	40000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	40200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	41000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	41200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	42000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	42200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	43000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	43200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	44000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	44200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	45000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	45200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	46000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	46200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	47000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	47200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	48000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	48200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	49000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	49200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	50000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	50200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	51000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	51200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	52000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	52200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	53000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	53200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	54000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	54200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	55000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	55200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	56000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	56200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	57000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	57200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	58000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	58200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	59000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	59200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	60000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	60200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	61000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	61200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	62000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	62200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	63000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	63200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	64000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	64200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	65000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	65200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	66000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	66200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	67000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	67200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	68000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	68200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	69000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	69200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	70000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	70200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	71000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	71200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	72000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	72200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	73000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	73200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	74000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	74200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	75000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	75200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	76000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	76200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	77000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	77200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	78000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	78200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	79000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	79200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	80000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	80200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	81000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	81200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	82000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	82200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	83000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	83200	23	38	54	23	38	54		
Bent	84000	23	38	54	23	38	54		
(750)	84200	23	38						



Ever since those new computers arrived, the office has been full of creative and inspired individuals.

But the same people still work here.

The Macintosh has got everyone in the place fired up with enthusiasm.

Ideas are beginning to surface from people we thought had retired.

Our marketing and engineering people are *really* starting to communicate with each other.

Who would have thought the same computers used by our head office could do so much for a small company like ours?

So what's so different about these new computers?

They use symbols that we're all familiar with, like wastebaskets and files. It seems like we've been using them for years rather than a few weeks.

When you pick up a pencil you don't think how to write, *only* what to write.

A Macintosh works the same way. We no longer have to memorise a series of complicated commands or follow rigid pathways.

We're spending our time working out our problems, not our computers.

Please send me more information about Apple Macintosh personal computers. Post to: Apple Computer U.K. Limited, FREEPOST, Information Centre, Riverside Suite, Bishop's Palace House, Kingston, Surrey KT1 1BR, or Dial 100 and ask for Freefone Apple.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

And because all Macintosh software works in a consistent way it doesn't become any more complex when we move onto new applications.

The Macintosh has even enhanced the capabilities of our existing system.

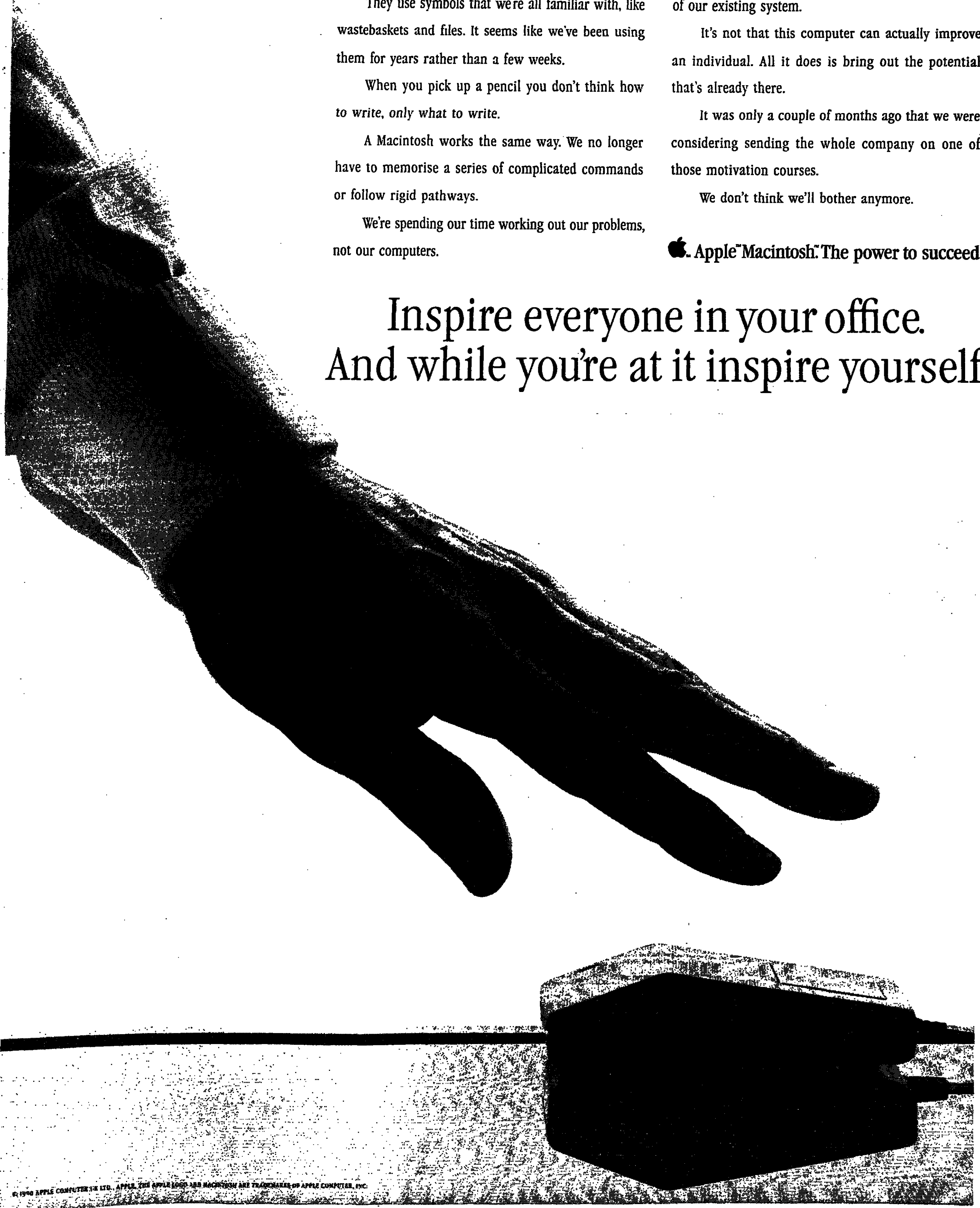
It's not that this computer can actually improve an individual. All it does is bring out the potential that's already there.

It was only a couple of months ago that we were considering sending the whole company on one of those motivation courses.

We don't think we'll bother anymore.

 Apple Macintosh. The power to succeed.

Inspire everyone in your office.  
And while you're at it inspire yourself.













[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 89.2 (day's range 88.1-89.4).

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 89.2 (day's range 89.1-89.4).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for February 8				
	Rate	Change	1 month	3 months
New York	1.5880-1.7030	1.5880-1.5890	0.08-0.085	2.78-2.70
London	2.0181-2.0181	2.0180-2.0181	0.00-0.00	2.92-2.92
Amsterdam	3.1594-3.1821	3.1702-3.1757	1-1 1/2p	4-4 1/2p
Brussels	36.73-36.23	36.84-36.04	22-19p	55-61p
Frankfurt	10.55-10.55	10.53-10.53	0-0	13-13 1/2p
Dublin	1.0010-1.0020	1.0110-1.0020	32-27p	80-75p
Frankfurt	2.9078-2.9128	2.9012-2.9135	1-1 1/2p	4-4 1/2p
Madrid	947-947	947-947	0-0	114-114 1/2p
Mexico	193.49-181.70	192.37-182.81	8-9p	11-11 1/2p
Osaka	263.49-210.17	266.33-206.26	2-2 1/2p	1-1 1/2p
Paris	10.05-10.05	10.05-10.05	0-0	11-11 1/2p
Paris	5.9282-5.9075	5.9282-5.9284	3-4p	9-9 1/2p
Seoul	10.10-10.03	10.0410-10.3238	1-1 1/2p	n/a
Singapore	246.72-246.72	246.72-246.72	0-0	n/a
Vienna	19.70-19.18	19.70-19.18	10-10 1/2p	31 1/2-31 1/2p
Zurich	2.5070-2.5230	2.5147-2.5179	1-1 1/2p	3-3 1/2p

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	3135.39-3221.32
Australia dollar	2.00-2.00
Bahrian dinar	0.5390-0.5404
Brazil cruzado	30.7359-30.7880
Canada dollar	0.7882-0.7882
Denmark krone	13.33-13.33
Greece drachma	26.9250-26.9710
Hong Kong dollar	10.00-10.00
Indian rupee	69.66-69.66
Kuwait dinar KD	0.6925-0.6925
Malaysia ringgit	2.33-2.33
Mexico peso	4.47-4.47
New Zealand dollar	2.8620-2.8675
Philippine peso	4.93-4.93
Singapore dollar	3.1592-3.1628
S Africa rand (ini)	5.4805-5.5798
S Korea won	200.00-200.00
U A S dollar	6.2000-6.2250

\*London Bank Rates applied to all other rates.  
 †U.S. dollar bank rates applied to all other rates.

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100	3000.0	3000.0				Previous open interest 21871	Three month FRB11				

Three Month Starting	Previous open interest 144330	US Treasury Bond	Previous open interest 41705
Mar 90	84.97 84.98 84.95 84.94 84.95 84.96	90-01	90-01
Mar 90	84.97 84.98 84.95 84.94 84.95 84.96	90-01	90-01
Three Month Eurodollar	Previous open interest 33330	Long Gilt	Previous open interest 5195
Mar 90	91.98 91.99 91.97 91.99 91.99 91.99	90-01	90-01
Mar 90	91.98 91.99 91.97 91.99 91.99 91.99	90-01	90-01
Three Month Euro DM	Previous open interest 32000	German Govt Bond	Previous open interest 43944
Mar 90	91.40 91.47 91.38 91.39 91.38 91.39	90-01	90-01
Mar 90	91.25 91.27 91.14 91.16 91.18 91.19	90-01	90-01

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA	AMT FUTURES
Mar 630-632	Dec 673-670
Mar 630-632	May 673-670
Sep 648-647	Nov 711-715
Mar 553-552	Long 611-610
Sep 564-562	Jan 626-625
Mar 564-562	Mar 647-642
Sep 584-582	Nov 621-620
BUGAR	C Cane/tonne
Mar 330-330.4	Oct 457-478
May 330-330.4	Dec 314-05.0
Aug 328-328.0	Mar 294-04.0
Nov 328-328.0	May 294-04.0
WHEAT GRAIN FUTURES	
Mar 113.00	Nov 117.15
May 105.95	Nov 108.90
Aug 105.95	Nov 108.90
Nov 108.90	Nov 108.90
SOYABEAN	AMT FUTURES
Mar 124.00-124.5	Aug 124.00-124.5
Aug 128.25-128.2	Oct 123.00-123.0
Nov 123.00-123.0	Dec 123.00-123.0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Official prices/previous day		Ratoff Wolff	
(K/tonne)	3 month	Vol	Tone
Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone
Copper	1322.5-1324.5	1334.0-1335.0	27-30.50
Zipper Gde	422.40-424.00	413.00-414.00	870.25
2nd Zipper	1325.0-1326.0	1330.0-1331.0	1107.75
3rd Zipper	1328.0-1329.0	1320.0-1322.0	1177.75
Tin	6335-6345	6485-6470	4.00
Aluminium	1418.0-1417.0	1430.0-1431.0	2290.00
Lead	8125-8125	8125-8125	130.02
T (Cents per Troy oz. @ 99.99%)			

LONDON WHEAT FUTURES (T/pt)

Live Cattle Contract			
Mar	Open	Close	Settle
Mar	110.0	110.0	110.0
Apr	111.0	111.0	111.0
May	112.0	112.0	112.0
Jun	113.0	113.0	113.0
Jul	114.0	114.0	114.0
Aug	115.0	115.0	115.0
Sep	116.0	116.0	116.0
Oct	117.0	117.0	117.0
Nov	118.0	118.0	118.0
Dec	119.0	119.0	119.0
Jan	120.0	120.0	120.0
Feb	121.0	121.0	121.0
Mar	122.0	122.0	122.0
Apr	123.0	123.0	123.0
May	124.0	124.0	124.0
Jun	125.0	125.0	125.0
Jul	126.0	126.0	126.0
Aug	127.0	127.0	127.0
Sep	128.0	128.0	128.0
Oct	129.0	129.0	129.0
Nov	130.0	130.0	130.0
Dec	131.0	131.0	131.0
Jan	132.0	132.0	132.0
Feb	133.0	133.0	133.0
Mar	134.0	134.0	134.0
Apr	135.0	135.0	135.0
May	136.0	136.0	136.0
Jun	137.0	137.0	137.0
Jul	138.0	138.0	138.0
Aug	139.0	139.0	139.0
Sep	140.0	140.0	140.0
Oct	141.0	141.0	141.0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Ags butcher prices at representative markets on February 7	
(K/pt)	Settle
GB (p)	109.75
GB (p)	109.75
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Listening for aliens

The quest for life in outer space begins in two years' time. William Broad describes the \$100m project

After decades of dreaming, and sometimes scheming, a small band of Earthlings has received American government money to embark on a \$100 million (£58 million), 10-year project to find aliens. Their goal is to scan the sky with dish-shaped antennas, listening for faint signals from advanced civilizations they say may dot the galaxy. Their search for extraterrestrial intelligence is known by its acronym, SETI.

For years, about 20 scientists, many working for Nasa, have lived on shoestring budgets, thinking about rather than doing ambitious searches. But in the 1990 fiscal year, for the first time they received funds to start the world's first wide-ranging examination of the heavens for signs of alien civilizations. "This is the big step," says Dr Frank Drake, a founder of the modern field of extraterrestrial searches, who is a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California at Santa Cruz. "It will allow us to do very sophisticated searching."

Advocates say the project is important because it will start to tackle one of mankind's ultimate questions with scientific rigour. Scientists, however, say there is no evidence of beings out there waiting to be discovered. If there were such beings, they say, Earth would have heard from them by now.

Enthusiasts have conducted about 50 smaller searches. The first modern one was in 1960, when Drake used the 85ft antenna at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia to listen for transmissions.

The challenge today is finding powerful new ways to distinguish an alien transmission from Earthly static and cosmic background noise.

The main American government project is to build an advanced radio receiver that will simultaneously scan 14 million channels of radio waves from existing radio telescopes around the world, seeking signs of intelligence in the universe. The apparatus is to be switched on in October 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America, and is to run until the turn of the century. "In the first minute, we'll accomplish more than all the other projects combined," says Dr Peter Backus, a principal investigator at the California-based SETI Institute.

Getting to this point was no easy task. The scientists were attacked and ridiculed by traditional astronomers and astrophysicists. "It's been a long, arduous task to convince all the appropriate parties that this is the right thing to do,"

says Thomas Pierson, the institute's director. "SETI is always burdened with the threat of being declared flaky, or fringe, or pseudo-science," Drake says. "So you have to be careful that very qualified, right-thinking people are involved." For

**'In the first minute of the scanning operation, we shall accomplish more than all the other projects combined'**

example, advocates try to keep light-years of distance between themselves and believers in unidentified flying objects, saying the reports are based more on wishful thinking than on science.

The programme finally won crucial backing from Repub-

lican Senator Jake Garn, who became convinced of the possibility of extraterrestrial beings. Garn succeeded in winning federal funds, although they were slightly less than hoped. Nasa had asked for \$6.8 million for SETI but received \$4 million, a doubling of its budget. It was enough money, however, to start construction. "It's an exciting time for us," said Dr Jill Tarter, a Nasa scientist. "We'll go ahead and make the instruments we hope to turn on in 1992."

The apparatus now taking shape will fill four refrigerator-sized electronic racks. It will first divide incoming signals into 14 million channels and then analyse every one for extraterrestrial clues, scanning for either continuous waves, similar to the carrier waves used on Earth broadcasts, or for pulsed signals, similar to rotating lighthouse beacons.

The scientists intend to use many radiotelescopes, including the world's largest, measuring 1,000ft, at Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

The search will have two distinct parts. One will examine specific targets, about 770 Sun-like stars up to 80 light-years, or 470 trillion miles, from Earth. Scientists believe they might have Earth-like

planets, and possibly civilizations. The other part will survey the entire sky, including the Milky Way and its 400 billion stars. "The typical guess is that there are 10,000 to 100,000 advanced civilizations in the Milky Way alone," Drake says.

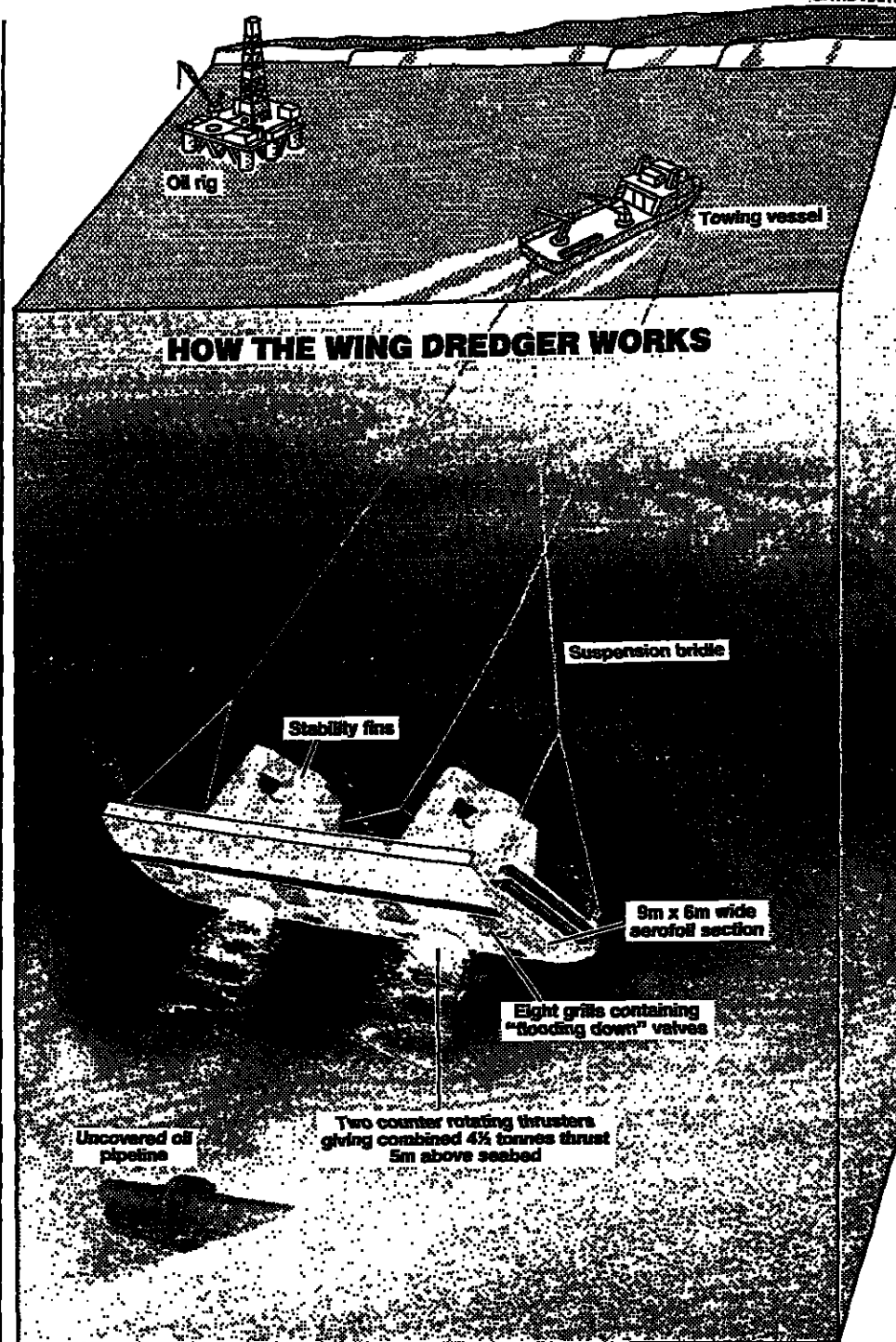
The scientists think their equipment will be sensitive enough to pick up beacon signals sent out by advanced civilizations to broadcast their presence, and perhaps some routine transmissions that leak out as well.

But researchers fear time is running out. Radio interference on the ground and from orbiting satellites is increasing so fast that this decade may be the last opportunity for Earth-based searches unimpeded by extraneous noise.

However, some astronomers and astrophysicists say there is no firm evidence of life elsewhere in the universe, despite the enormous number of stars and the possibility that there are other habitable planets. "Maybe we're a fluke," says Dr Robert Rood, an astronomer at the University of Virginia, who describes himself as mildly sceptical of the Nasa plan for a big search.

Critics also ask: Where are the aliens? The universe is so old, about 15 billion years, that many aliens should have visited our solar system by now if biological evolution is as universal as the advocates believe.

(New York Times)



Seabed revolution: the aerodynamic Wing Dredger goes through water rather than the air

## It's not in the pipeline

Using a technique devised by sea captains on treasure hunts where ships' propellers are used to blow silt and sand off artefacts, and adapting methods developed by the aviation industry, British engineers have created a machine for dredging sand and silt from long tracks of pipeline. The Wing Dredger has been designed by Rapid Wing Dredging (RWD) for undersea work.

At present, oil companies wanting to clear debris off pipelines or well-heads, say inspection, use jet pumps - vacuum-type cleaner machines that suck away silt and sand. The system is efficient and accurate, but over the hundreds of miles of pipeline that typically

link a North Sea platform with the mainland, such a process can take years.

Ed Cookson, an RWD spokesman, says: "The Wing Dredger can be towed at a few knots, uncovering whole pipelines in days."

The device consists of a 9m by 6m aerodol that is aerodynamically balanced to go through water rather than air. It is lowered to less than a metre above the seabed and towed by a ship. Set into the structure are two propellers, one which turns clockwise, the other anti-clockwise.

Cookson says tests on the dredger are expected to be carried out from next month to early April.

Nick Nuttall

Does the secret of eternal life lie within a potato? A Russian scientist thinks it might

## Calling back the years

A Russian scientist says he has been able to extend the life of plants and trees by slowing down their natural development. Nikolai Isayev, a Moscow biologist, says he has been conducting experiments with houseplant spiderwort, potatoes and maple trees.

Now in charge of a department at Vesta - the All-Union Experimental Scientific Centre - Isayev began his experiments by picking some leaves from a young potato. He then crushed them in boiling water and injected the solution into an older potato.

Within a couple of hours, he says, its flowers drooped and new buds stopped developing.

The experiment proved to Isayev that, as far as plants were concerned, the ageing process could be manipulated.

Further experiments showed that the periodic removal of tubers from potato plants which had not yet flowered stopped the ageing process and turned the potato into an evergreen.

Ageing, Isayev says, is caused by a series of stages, each triggered by biochemical substances which "switch" the

organism from one stage to the next one.

Block this process - for example, by nipping buds - and the accumulation of biochemical substances essential for moving from one stage to another is prevented.

Isayev believes that this theory, which he hopes to test in his new laboratory, applies equally to plants and could even apply to humans and other animals. In the long term, he says, it might be possible to prevent brains

from ageing by slowing down the chemical processes, or stop arteries from clogging.

He is convinced that it should be possible to identify all the substances responsible for all the ageing triggers - and inhibit them.

The Soviet Institute of Gerontology has cited experiments in gene-regulating therapy - which prevents genetic information being passed on by DNA - which can increase the average life span of animals by 43 per cent.

Enterosorption, another experiment, concentrates on removing toxic agents from gastric juices. The life expectancy of animals whose blood was filtered by this method rose by 43.4 per cent.

The institute says that enterosorption could also benefit elderly people. It says that blood changes associated with atherosclerosis (a disease which prevents normal blood-flow) are less pronounced.

Unfortunately, however, the method removes not only toxic substances from the body, but also those substances needed by it.

Andrew Wiseman

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 36

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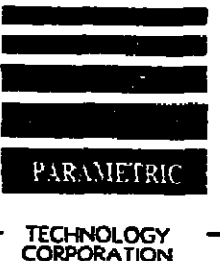
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Surgery looks to the future

A London team is leading the way in a laser technique to correct short-sightedness. Its research offers hope to millions with sight defects, Thomson Prentice writes

A surgical laser which performs sculpture on the human eye to correct short-sightedness and other defects could be offered to some British patients later this year.

It is completely successful, the treatment, still at an experimental stage, could benefit millions of people worldwide. For some, it would mean an end to wearing glasses or contact lenses.

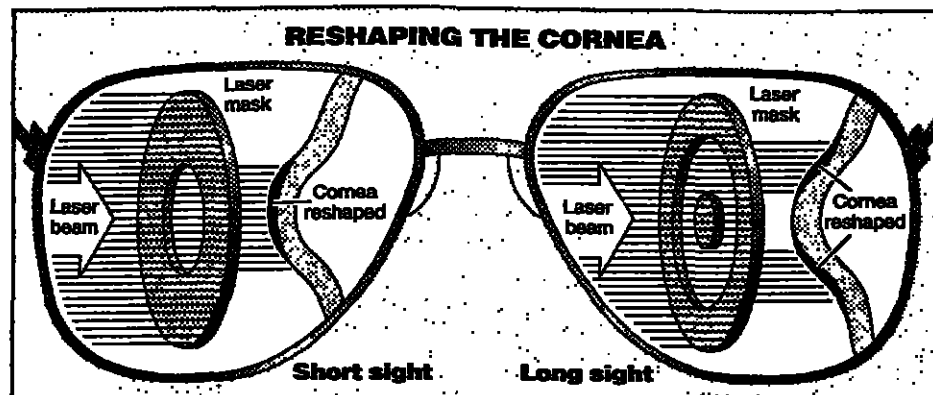
Specialists at a London hospital are at the forefront of international research into the safety and efficacy of the equipment, called an excimer laser.

They are collaborating with scientists in West Germany who have just completed a clinical trial in which a small group of volunteers underwent the operation on both eyes.

Unlike conventional thermal lasers, the latest device, developed in the United States, does not cut tissue by generating heat, but by a photo-chemical reaction.

High-energy ultraviolet photons are produced which separate the chemical bonds holding the tissue together, in a technique called photo-ablative keratotomy.

The laser is used for as little as 30 seconds in an operation



lasting about half an hour under local anaesthetic.

After laser treatment, the eye has to be bandaged for one or two days to allow healing of the epithelium, or top surface layer of the cornea.

The technique is being seen by ophthalmologists as a significant advance on the surgical procedure, radial keratotomy, pioneered in the Soviet Union.

In this treatment, a dozen cuts are made in the cornea to

flatten it and reduce short-sightedness.

Professor Theo Seiler, professor of ophthalmology at the Free University of Berlin, says 10 myopic volunteers who he operated on may have no further need of spectacles or contact lenses.

However, experts are not convinced of the long-term effects of the technique. In some earlier cases, haziness of the cornea has been detected and has taken months to clear.

Another complication in early trials has been regression, or thickening of the epithelium during its regrowth. However, researchers believe these problems can be overcome.

The British research is being carried out at St Thomas's Hospital, London, by a team of three: Malcolm Kerr Muir, a consultant ophthalmologist; Professor John Marshall, scientific director of the project; and David Garty, an

Iris Fund research fellow. They were the first in the world to begin treating patients with the laser to remove superficial irregularities on the cornea which cause impaired vision.

Plans have been made to use the laser later this year for the treatment of short-sightedness in a controlled trial involving a small group of volunteers.

"It is exciting, but we have to establish whether it is safe, whether it causes scarring, and whether the induced change in the cornea is stable," Kerr Muir says. "Until we can guarantee its benefits, we think it is unethical to talk about the treatment becoming widely available. It must be regarded as an experimental procedure at this stage."

Despite this cautious approach, several technology companies which produce the equipment in the United States, Japan and Europe are eager to capture a share of what they see as a huge international market.

One of the companies, Summit Technology, of Watertown, Massachusetts, provided the equipment for the St Thomas's project and for the work in Berlin.

Last week the company announced the successful completion of Professor Seiler's trials involving 10 patients. The company has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to conduct trials in America for the correction of short-sightedness and to go ahead with plans for the treatment of glaucoma.

Use of the laser is likely to be restricted to hospitals, although there will be a demand for it by opticians, Kerr Muir says. He does not expect the technique to provoke strong opposition from makers of spectacles and contact lenses. "Not everyone will be suitable for the operation, and not all of those who could have it will want it."

He could not say whether the technique was likely to be available on the National Health Service, or only as a private treatment.

## BRIEFING

## Into the sky's hole



An unmanned aircraft that will fly through the hole in the ozone layer above the South Pole is being developed by American scientists. The battery-powered craft, which will be controlled by a computer, will make its first flight to gather information this autumn. According to Professor James Anderson, who teaches atmospheric chemistry at Harvard University and is involved in the project, the craft will fly up to 85,000ft above Antarctica. Sixty per cent of the ozone layer of the South Pole has been depleted, Anderson says. Because ozone blocks ultraviolet radiation, the damage could lead to higher levels of skin cancer, eye problems and damaged food crops.

## Smoke ring



Doctors in Sweden say they have found a strong link between cigarette smoking and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) — deaths with no known cause in infants aged from one to six months. In a study covering 280,000 births between 1983 and 1985, Dr Bengt Haglund and Dr Sven Chantingius attributed 50 of the 190 deaths from SIDS to smoking by mothers during pregnancy. They said a pregnant woman who smoked heavily (more than 10 cigarettes a day) tripled the risk of losing an infant to SIDS.

## Held in check



The former world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, beat the world's best chess-playing computer program last week in a match that lasted two hours. Karpov had only 45 seconds left on his chess clock when the computer, known as Deep Thought, resigned. "When I looked at the time, I was nervous. I had less than a minute. Of course, in chess you can do 50 moves in one minute. At certain moments the computer was all right, but it made some strange moves." Deep Thought, which can examine 750,000 moves per second, was being run on an IBM mainframe.

## Roving eyes



Researchers at Bristol University are investigating whether advances in robot computer vision can be used to help the blind. The team has built a small robot vehicle, which uses "video" cameras linked to a computer and can navigate itself along roads and pathways at walking pace or faster. Dr Barry Thomas, a senior lecturer in the computer science department, believes the vision system could be adapted to provide navigational clues for the blind. He is leading a team of computer specialists, engineers, mathematicians and a psychologist in a £5,000 feasibility study funded by the Bristol Royal Society for the Blind.

## IBM's new line



IBM is to sell a new type of software for its personal computers and a new line of work stations designed to make them easier to use. The software, developed by the Californian company Next, uses a simple set of commands to operate a computer and to help customers create new programs using a hand-held mouse pointing device that can select different parts of a new program. Next, which produces advanced personal computers, was started by Steven Jobs, co-founder of Apple. The software marks the first time IBM has used "object-oriented programming", a technique that provides pre-programmed blocks of computer code to build up new programs. It will be made available for IBM's PS/2 range and a new work station, due to be announced next Thursday.

Matthew May



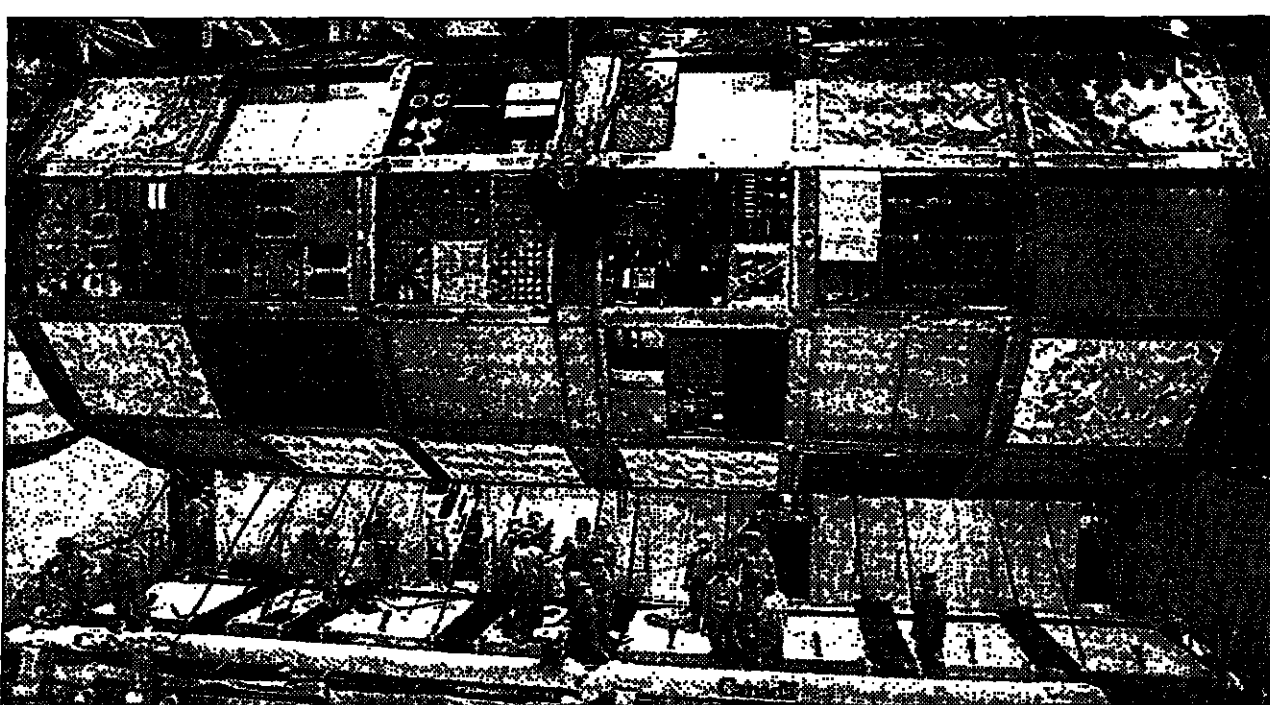
Kickback: Galileo uses Venus to bounce off, heading to Jupiter

## Probes in space

While the world's most sophisticated spacecraft is about to use Venus as a planetary sling-shot, scientists are busy examining the battered satellite that was brought home.

The Galileo probe (left), launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) last year, will tomorrow fly close to Venus, using its gravity to bounce back towards the Earth on its way to Jupiter. At the same time, Nasa scientists at the Kennedy Space Centre (right) are eagerly examining the battered 11-tonne Long Duration Exposure Facility satellite (LDEF) rescued by a space shuttle last month, hoping its condition after six years in space will help them design longer-lasting spacecraft.

The \$1.4 billion (\$825 million) Galileo heads for Venus, a planet which suffered its own runway greenhouse effect, on an indirect journey to Jupiter.



Battle-scarred: The damage to the LDEF satellite, rescued last month after a six-year space orbit, is checked by Nasa scientists

It will scan the Venusian atmosphere as it flies within 6,200 miles of the cloud tops, before using the planet's gravity to send it back towards Earth.

It will need to fly past Earth twice for a gravity "kick" big enough to send it towards

Jupiter, a necessary move because the craft's rocket booster is not powerful enough for a direct route.

The second Earth flyby, on December 8, 1992, will be at an altitude of less than 200 miles and a velocity of some 31,500 mph.

Shortly before reaching Jupiter in 1995, Galileo will release a small probe that will parachute into the giant planet's atmosphere before the main spacecraft goes into orbit for a 20-month survey of what amounts to a miniature solar system.

Galileo will also make repeated close flybys of Jupiter's four brightest moons, Europa, Ganymede, Callisto and Io, where bizarre volcanoes spew clouds of sulphur into space. Scientists hope stormy Jupiter will reveal clues about the origin of our solar system.

## Training shock

School-leavers and the unemployed wanting to acquire skills in information technology face a bleak future since a decision by the National Computing Centre (NCC) to withdraw from the Government's Employment Training (ET) and Youth Training (YT) schemes.

Companies wanting IT staff tend to hire only those with previous experience or a recognized qualification, making it difficult for school-leavers to get the first job.

The NCC, with funding assistance from the Government and business support, has trained more than 15,000 students in IT skills since 1976. Students successfully completing the course gained the respected NCC threshold certificate.

The NCC says more than 80 per cent of its students found employment after completing the course and a further 10 per cent went on to higher education.

The NCC's decision to quit follows the withdrawal of BOC Training Services a month ago and reduces considerably the number of high-quality IT training providers taking part in government schemes.

"People wanting to get into IT face a bleak future now the NCC has also quit," Howard Wright, BOC's managing director, says. "It is a big problem."

The Government has mounted a stout defence of the training schemes. It says the industry must stop relying on grants and do more training.

But the NCC and BOC say they were forced to withdraw because the

amount of money paid by the Training Agency for every student is too low to be of any use to students. Wright says BOC used to be paid more than £100 a week for every student but this was reduced to less than £20, although, with extra grants, it can rise to £40.

It is not enough because computer equipment is costly and IT tutors expect high salaries. BOC, which was forced to cut the length of its courses by half to meet the reduced funding levels, found that job placement rates fell by the same amount.

Richard Firth, the NCC's training director, says the NCC could not afford to continue to lose money on the training schemes. He adds that other training companies are using inexperienced tutors with little teaching or IT knowledge. Students should look carefully at companies offering training. Wright says it is important to verify how many attendees at previous intakes found jobs and to consider the standard of training.

School-leavers wanting to pick up IT skills may have to consider paying for courses themselves, although the NCC and BOC are against this because there is little guarantee that companies that do the hiring will recognize the validity of the course.

BOC will help those wanting to enter the profession. Hopefuls can take its free psychometric aptitude test.

Leslie Tilley

## Computers have a word for it

The translator's workload is being electronically eased

A computer gadget which instantly translates handy holiday phrases into French has become this year's gift for the person who has everything. The gadget's usefulness may be questionable, but it demonstrates the possibilities of computerized translation.

The technology for complete computer translation was developed in the 1950s, but these systems are only now coming into their own as demand for translation increases and computers become sophisticated enough to provide a useful service.

The European Commission, for example, translates about a million

pages of information from countries within the EC every year. It has an army of 1,100 translators, and a computerized machine translation system which, last year, handled about 2,000 pages a month.

Computers are fast, but their use in the highly skilled work of translation often means a drop in quality. Where the need for style and expression is paramount, translators will be required for a long time yet. However, electronic systems are now almost as good at translating lengthy technical documents full of factual information.

Transtel, a London translation agency, is working with a system developed by Tovna, an Israeli company. Charles Jamieson, a Transtex director, believes the system will allow the company to translate between eight and 10 times as much material as translators can normally handle.

"The benefit of machine translation is speed. It will get between 85 per cent

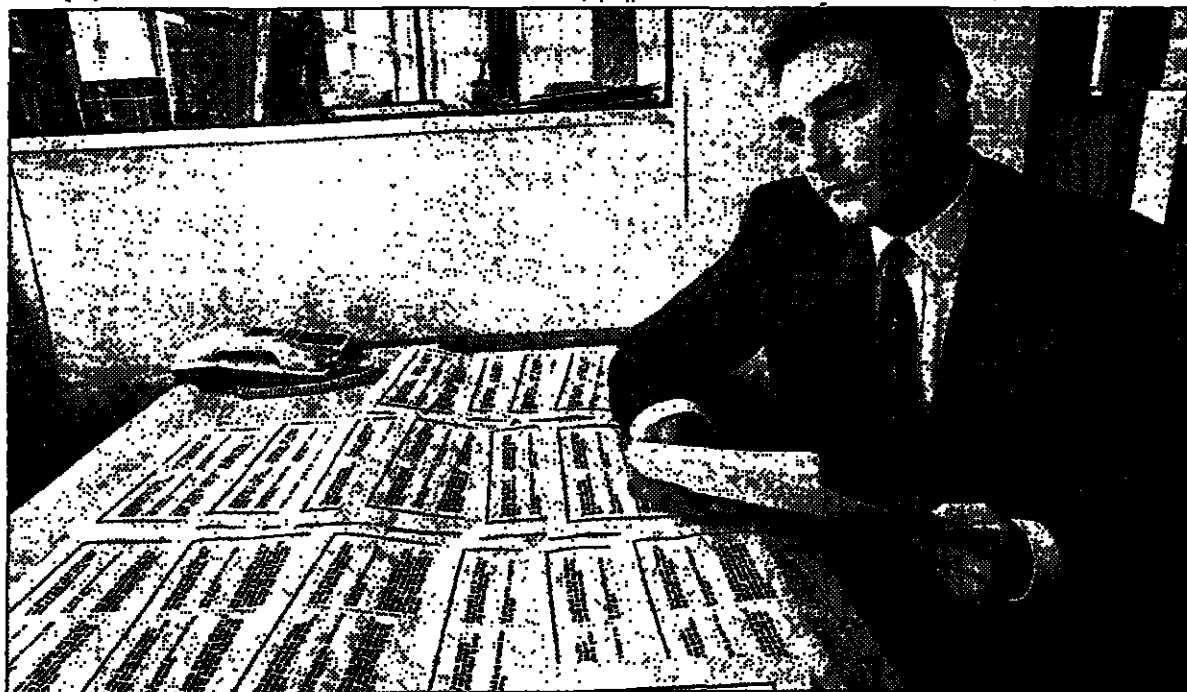
and 90 per cent right," Jamieson says. Transtex's system will translate English, French and Russian. The company is also working on Italian and Spanish, and is looking for a partner in Japan.

Prices start at about \$3,000 (£1,800) a month for a software licence for two or three users and one language pair.

According to Jamieson, it takes about six months to train operators and build up the dictionaries at the heart of the system. "Grammar and syntax aren't the most important aspects of the system. What we can do is build up specialist subject areas with lexicons and glossaries, making the system particularly good for highly technical subjects," he says.

Ami Segal, executive vice-president of Tovna, says: "Every mistake can be corrected and added to the lexicon, so the more you work with the system, the more it improves."

Similar commercial systems are



Fast and fluent at languages: Charles Jamieson of Transtex says "the benefit of machine translation is speed"

## New British spider weaves its way into official list



A new spider is set this year to be added to the official list of creepy crawlies resident of Britain. *Stenobothrus nobilis* (pictured right and left), has become so entrenched that spider scientists believe it must now be accepted as a British species, (Nick Nantall writes).

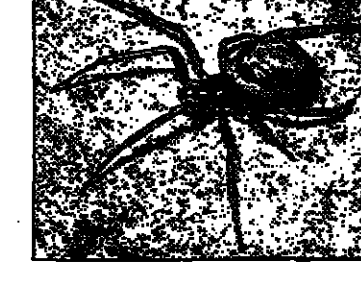
Rowley Saxon, an arachnologist with the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE) in Farnborough, Dor-

set, and Dick Jones, one of the country's leading spider experts, are to submit a scientific paper to the *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society* to formalize its status, swelling the ranks of listed species to 640.

Strongholds have now been confirmed in the Portsmouth and Swanage areas with the arachnid having been spotted in houses,

gardens and on stone walls, distinguished by its unusual web. Exactly how the species, indigenous to the hot climates of Portugal, Madeira and the Canary Islands, made it to Britain, and survived icy winters, is unknown.

The female has a body about 13mm long, the male 10mm, and both have distinctive brown, yellow and white mottled backs.



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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Physics in the balance

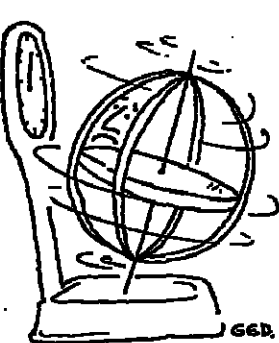
Physicists alarmed by a recent report of a gyroscope that appeared to lose weight when it was spinning, says Professor Stephen Salter of Edinburgh University in today's *Nature*. Far from defying the laws of gravity and motion, it was probably due to a conspiracy of engineering difficulties.

Japanese scientists, H. Hayasaka and S. Takenchi, from Tohoku University, reported late last year that the weight of their gyroscopes decreased as the rate of rotation increased (*Science* Report Jan 2).

The gyroscopes were made of an electric motor, a small flywheel, and a supporting frame. Identical measurements were obtained on two different weighing machines, a mechanical balance with the gyroscopes in one weighing pan and standard weights in the other, and an electronic balance.

To complicate matters further, the loss of weight was observed only when the flywheels were spun clockwise.

Salter, an engineer at Edinburgh University, suggests that the puzzle can be



solved by considering the weighing machines. Both the mechanical and the electronic balance find the weight by exerting a force on the weighing pan so as to return it exactly to the "null" position.

In the mechanical balance, this force is supplied by the reference weights in the other pan; in the other balance the force is generated electromagnetically, and controlled by electronic sensors and circuits. And to prevent the sensitive mechanism from oscillating, a small frictional "damping" force acts to bring the balance to rest and permit a reading to be taken.

Herein lies the problem. The balance works perfectly if the object being weighed is not moving. But a gyro-

scope moves: as the flywheel rotates, imperfections in the bearings cause it to shake.

Indeed, the two Japanese scientists measured the vibrations as part of their experiment, and from the values they give, Salter suggests that transient forces that come and go during each cycle of vibration could be as much as 200 times greater than the force that corresponds to the claimed change in weight.

Clearly, vibration should not be ignored, especially as it is noticeably different for clockwise and anticlockwise rotation. This is not quite the whole story. Over one cycle of vibration, the transient upward and downward forces that the gyroscope exerts on the weighing pan must cancel.

But if the damping force in the balance is not quite equal in the upwards and downwards directions, then the interaction of the vibration and the damping need not cancel, meaning that the null position for the rotating gyroscope would not be the same as the null position for the same gyroscope when it was not rotating.

Roland Pease

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## Your number's up

A new telephone service being considered for use in Britain could end nuisance calls. But will it threaten our privacy in other ways? Matthew May reports

A controversial new telephone service, which provides subscribers with the phone number of anyone calling them, is being investigated by the British Government.

The caller identification service has been introduced in several American states during the past year, resulting in fierce debate between people who believe it helps prevent obscene calls and false alarms, and civil liberties groups, which claim it is an invasion of privacy.

John Patten, Home Office minister, said last week that the Government would investigate the use of caller identification services as a way of limiting obscene phone calls.

In response to a Commons written question from Alan Michael, the Labour MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, Patten said the Government was waiting on publication of a report on the service by the University of New Jersey before making its decision.

The Government is also considering a proposal from the Hull Safer Cities project for Hull-based telephone operators, Kingston Commu-

nities, to operate a tracing system for malicious calls. In Britain, caller identification is being presented as a potential solution to the problem of obscene telephone calls, particularly those made from private numbers. However, the service has many other implications.

Kingston Communications describes its planned system as "highly sensitive" and has refused to comment further. Caller identification was pioneered more than a year ago in New Jersey. Almost 50,000 people now pay £4 a month and £50 for a unit which sits under the phone and displays the number of anyone dialling through one of the many digital exchanges connected to the service.

Additional services include a memory of the last 30 numbers which had called - whether the calls were answered or not - and a program which handles known numbers and switches others to an answering machine.

Last month in Toronto,

Northern Telecom introduced the first residential telephone with a built-in liquid crystal display to show callers' numbers. The new phone will be leased through Canadian telephone companies.

exchanges could handle the facility if it was introduced now. At first, these would provide call tracing only for calls from the same local exchange.

British Telecom is aware of the arguments surrounding the service.

"These systems are becoming technically feasible and could, theoretically, be introduced locally on digital exchanges now," says Bob Raggett, deputy director of corporate communications for British Telecom.

"Although it can help with one problem (obscene calls), it introduces others," he says. "It could cause problems for the police, for example, who rely on anonymous calls. Similarly, customers who phone a store to see if they have a particular piece of equipment don't want their phone numbers noted."

The use by businesses of caller identification systems to compile lists of potential customers, and the possibility of

these being sold to marketing operation another concern in the

The system also being ex-directory in less. Social workers probation officers want call clients from how example, are unhappy ing to reveal their numbers.

But advocates of the say it reduces the num false alarms and bomb and can trace emergen instantly. Restaurants orders for takeaway 1 table bookings welco way it reduces the num "no-shows".

Complicating the w sue, is the develop caller identification t services, which allow phone company to display of a caller's nu

In California, a t service will be require when the service is a for subscribers wanti numbers kept private.

In Pennsylvania, t the introduction o identification has been pending legal hearing been suggested that services be restricted enforcement and don olence intervention a

## Hot off the fax machine

National newspaper readers could soon be taking perfect copies of their favourite dailies off a facsimile machine rather than from the newsagents or news stands.

A world first in satellite broadcasting has been developed in Britain which will allow the simultaneous transmission of documents to millions of people across Europe in less than a minute.

Companies or organizations wanting to send information by fax spend hours hand-feeding sheets of paper into transmitting machines. Programmable faxes ease the burden, but a target of thousands or millions of people would require hundreds of telephone lines with a fax machine at the end of each line.

Vince Waterson, the inventor of the satellite publishing system, says that to target half a million people using conventional fax technology could require 150 phone lines and take 55

Soon you may be able to get near-perfect pages of your daily newspaper sent direct

hours - and quality would be poor. But with the broadcast channels, perfect copies could be sent within a minute.

Costs are crucial, with a telephone fax to Paris costing up to 50p and a fax to a subscriber in Britain running at between 8p and 16p a copy. The charge for broadcasting, which can be either via satellite such as British Aerospace's UteSat 2 or on terrestrial TV channels, would be around 10p.

The same technique, called Faxcast and due to be officially launched next month, is being considered by the Department of Health as a way of communicating vital information instantaneously to regional health authorities, general practitioners and hospitals. It has been designed so that

the DoH can immediately alert all GPs in an area if there is an influenza or poisoning outbreak. At present, it can take days before all relevant health professionals are alerted.

Steve Royal, of Data Broadcast Services Ltd, of London, the company behind the Faxcast service, says the system's potential benefits are limitless. Instead of wading through daily papers for subjects of interest, readers could specify extracts from either one newspaper or maybe even a selection of the national dailies.

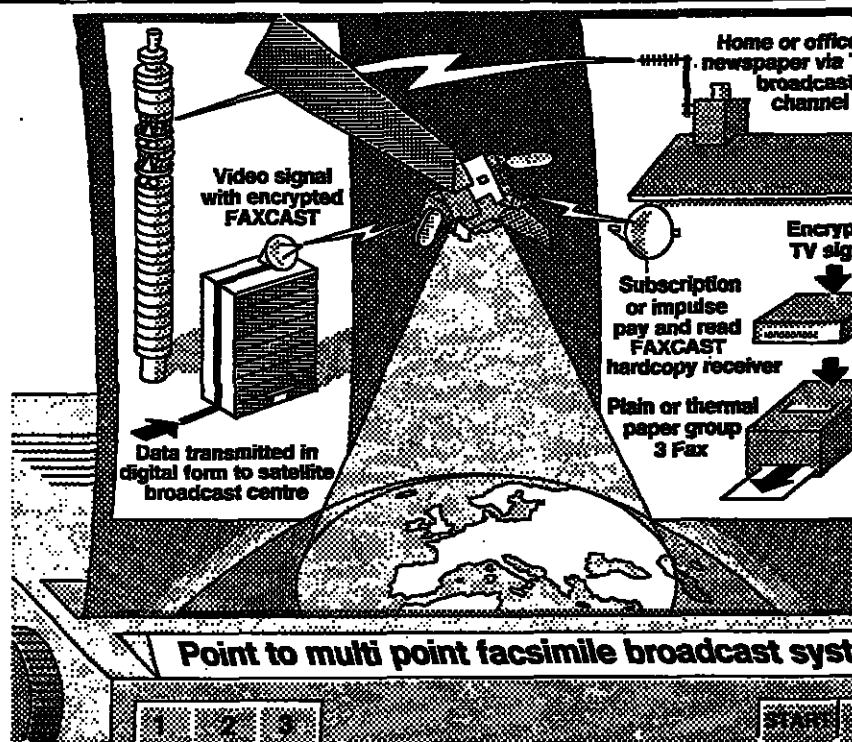
Important to the success of the direct publishing system is the near-perfect quality of reproduction possible from an ordinary fax machine when information is transmitted using broadcast channels.

The use of satellites means that millions of target fax machines can be sent information simultaneously and more cheaply than if transmitted conventionally down a telephone line.

Royal says that his firm, which has been developing the system for more than a year, is set to sign a contract with a big telecommunications company to manufacture and market decoders. This means the service could be available within months.

A pilot study with the DoH is being launched, with decoders in regional health authorities. There are about 1.5 million fax machines in Britain but, with prices expected to continue falling, they are fast becoming affordable for the home. In Japan, the number of household fax machines outstrips those in offices, and a similar trend is expected in Britain as more people begin to work from home.

Nick Nuttall



Continued from  
page 34

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# Robson doubtful for England's Italian campaign

By Ian Ross

## ROBSON'S INJURIES

England's preparations for the World Cup finals in Italy this summer were severely disrupted yesterday when Bryan Robson, the captain, underwent a groin operation. Robson, aged 33, had surgery at a London clinic 24 hours after an examination by a leading specialist revealed that an injury, which had initially been diagnosed as a simple groin strain, was more serious. However, fears that Robson might need a hernia operation proved unfounded.

Although Manchester United, of whom Robson is also captain, have somewhat optimistically indicated to the Football Association that Robson should be in a position to resume playing "within six to eight weeks" a more realistic date for his comeback is thought to be early May, since he will have been out of football for over four months. That will be only three weeks before the England squad is scheduled to leave for Italy.

Robson has already been ruled out of England's next warm-up game, against Brazil at Wembley on March 28, and it is now clear that he will be missing as his club attempts to achieve the dual target of FA Cup success and first division survival.

Bobby Robson, the England manager who has placed such a heavy reliance on his captain in recent years, said that he was "hopeful" that his captain would be available for the game against Czechoslovakia at Wembley on April 25 while openly admitting his sense of immense disappointment upon learning of yesterday's news.

"It goes without saying that

West Bromwich Albion  
1976: October: broken right leg (out for 11 weeks).  
1977: April: broken right leg (6 weeks).  
1978: January: broken right leg (6 weeks).  
Manchester United  
1982: February: badly torn ankle ligaments (12 weeks).  
1984: June: broken nose (close season). December: severely bruised foot (6 weeks).  
1985: January: dislocated shoulder (7 weeks). October: torn hamstring (3 weeks). November: torn hamstring (4 weeks).  
1986: March: dislocated shoulder (7 weeks). June: dislocated shoulder (7 weeks).  
1987: August: broken nose (2 weeks).  
1988: January: concussion (2 weeks).  
1989: January: concussion and swollen tongue (2 weeks). August: badly bruised ribs (2 weeks). September: broken right leg (2 weeks). December: groin/hernia injury (6 weeks to date).

Bryan Robson is one of England's key players but it is important to remember that this is as much a setback for his club, Manchester United, as it is for his country," he said.

"Obviously, he will have to regain full fitness at club level before he can be considered at international level. I shall keep in touch with Manchester United and be guided by any medical bulletins which they may issue. Bryan will miss the game against Brazil next month which will disappoint him greatly as that particular fixture is one of the highlights of any professional footballer's career," he added.

The England manager's respect for Robson's powers of leadership is such that he will almost certainly include him in his final 22-man squad for the World Cup finals, fully fit or not. However, he will be mindful of the events which occurred at the Mexico finals in 1986.

In March of that year, Robson dislocated a shoulder, an injury which kept him out of the sidelines for seven weeks. Although he played in England's opening group qualifying game against Morocco, he

aggravated the injury and took no further part in the competition.

Robson's enforced absence will give his potential understudies at international level the perfect opportunity to press their claims for inclusion in England's World Cup squad.

"It will give players like Steve McMahon of Liverpool and Steve Hodge of Nottingham Forest the chance to impress," conceded Bobby Robson.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said that he was "shattered" by the extent of Robson's latest injury. "Thankfully it turned out not to be a hernia but if we had not had the operation done quickly it could have turned into a hernia."

"After seeing the specialist on Tuesday, Bryan as advised that it would be in his best interests to have an operation next week but he said he wanted it done immediately. It is a terrible blow but we cannot afford to feel sorry for ourselves, we must get over it and carry on without him," he said.

Since sustaining the injury during the game against Liverpool at Anfield on December 23, Robson has been unable to train and has missed United's last eight senior games.

Despite Robson's claim that he is no more prone to serious injury than is any other player he has suffered at least one major fitness problem in each of the last seven domestic seasons.

All professional footballers are covered by the League's personal accident insurance scheme, which insures individuals for around £30,000.

son was insured for a figure of between £600,000 and £1 million in case his playing career was permanently ended while fulfilling commitments with England. The player is insured for the same sum by United as a precaution against his career being curtailed while on duty for them.

Manchester United will be unable to recoup any financial recompense for Bryan Robson's enforced absence. "The premiums involved in insuring him for missing matches would be sky high, it would be impossible," Ken Merrett, the club secretary, said yesterday.

Merrett confirmed that United do have the consolation that Robson's frequent and extensive medical bills are met by private health insurance. "He is covered by BUPA, and that meets the



Ten Of Spades (Kevin Mooney, left) masters Paddyboro (Peter Hobbs) at the last in the Charterhouse Mercantile Handicap Chase at Ascot yesterday

## O outlook bleak for Elcock

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
St Lucia

As the England party braced itself for the expected news that Ricardo Elcock's first tour has met a summary end, more anxiety darkened their horizon. Gladstone Small's susceptible joints have let him down again and he will definitely miss the four-day game with the Windward Islands starting here today.

Small's condition is potentially alarming for the touring team as, along with Angus Fraser, he represents the reliable quality in an otherwise speculative attack.

He came off the field in St Kitts on Monday to rest a nagging shoulder strain, but it was no better yesterday and he was unable to practise at Victoria Park, the atmospheric little sports ground where the tour resumes today.

This is a new injury for Small, who has been plagued by many similar ailments over recent years, and the tour manager, Peter Lush, explained: "He can be discounted from this next match but it is too early to say any more. It is naturally worrying to be short of our full complement so early on."

It was ironic that, while

Small rested in the pavilion, Elcock, who went to the same school in Barbados before both became naturalized Englishmen, was going through a private agony on a totally unsuitable net surface.

This had been designated as the session in which Elcock must indicate his recovery from the back injury which afflicted him on the second day of the tour. Plainly, it did not proceed to plan. The run-ups were uneven, the net pitch was untrustworthy and Elcock, having bowled the equivalent of six overs at varying speed, left the field with the consoling arm of the

team manager, Micky Stewart, around his shoulders.

Elcock did muster the hostility to hit Wayne Larkins twice in the rib cage, persuading him to retire ruefully, but more than once his grimacing expression at the point of delivery told its sad story of a man demonstrably not fit enough for the undertaking at hand.

A pronouncement on his possible return to England can be expected today and Lush was significantly ill at ease as he attempted to deflect such speculation. Finally, he admitted: "Ricky is a bit stiff." So soon after the exercise, this seemed tantamount to saying he had broken down.

England arrived on this green, volcanic island, fresh from a day off. Stewart did not let them forget it. He urged them through a session of sprints and stamina work so severe it would have had the touring teams of an earlier age recoiling in horror.

Allan Lamb, yet to play on the tour due to a calf injury sustained on day one, emerged in good order and will be included today against one of the Caribbean's more modest teams.

The Windwards cannot boast a single Test player as Winston Davis will miss the match with a minor injury. Neil Williams, the Middlesex seam bowler from St Vincent, is also out with a broken bone in his hand and the greatest threat to the touring side may come from the two experienced slow bowlers, Javan Etienne and Thomas Kentish.

## Moseley in from the cold

St Lucia — Ezra Moseley yesterday became the first West Indian to benefit from the new international cricket accord on South Africa (Alan Lee writes). Moseley, banned for life from Caribbean cricket six years ago, has been named in the 13-man West Indies party for next week's two opening one-day international against England in Port of Spain.

Moseley, aged 32, a seam bowler who spent several years in county cricket with Glamorgan and is now being actively pursued by Surrey, has created a little history at the main expense of Franklyn Stephenson, whose reputation in England had marked him out as the likeliest of the repressed players to gain recognition.

Stephenson, however, is not rated so highly in the Caribbean and his fellow-Barbadian

has been chosen strictly on form, after taking 22 wickets in regional first-class cricket this winter.

Moseley joins an otherwise familiar and predictable party in which the contentious batting places have been claimed by Carl Hooper, of Guyana, and Carlisle Best, the cheerful Barbadian. There is no room for Keith Arthurton, who treated England's bowling so dismissively in St Kitts.

Patrick Patterson, who heads the first-class bowling averages here, has also been omitted for these first two games in a five-match limited overs series. But his extra pace may be used in the first Test, on his home ground in Kingston.

The West Indian players who toured South Africa were all banned for life from domestic and international cricket. But when the International

Cricket Council agreement was reached a year ago, allowing an amnesty for those with past South African links, the West Indies Board of Control reassessed its stance and invited all such players to apply for reinstatement.

Life had been difficult for some when they returned to their islands, although not all found the reaction unforgiving. But several gave up the game. Two who applied unsuccessfully to be taken back by their regional teams were Colin Croft and Alvin Kallicharran. Moseley and Stephenson are, so far, the only banned players to have returned to the first-class game and both may now play a part in the campaign against England.

WEST INDIES PARTY: V A Richards (captain), C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, P B Richardson, A Lee, C L Hooper, P L Dujon, M D Marshall, C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, C A Walsh, E A Moseley, C A Best.

## National divide develops

By Michael Seely  
Racing Correspondent

The great public debate about whether Desert Orchid should run in the Grand National is now being reflected in a difference of opinion between David Elsworth, the trainer, and Richard Burridge, the principal shareholder in the flying grey.

At Ascot yesterday, Elsworth, who is broadly in favour of Desert Orchid running, clearly resented questions about his National plans. "I'm surprised you asked me that," he said. "All along I made it plain that we won't be considering the matter until after the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Of course, if Richard Burridge doesn't want to run, it's his horse and he can take him out."

However, Burridge, interviewed on television and elsewhere, was adamant in his opinion. "David has made many inspired and brave decisions about Desert Orchid. But I don't want the horse to run in the National this year."

"It seems ludicrous to me. His planned programme all along has been the King George, the Gold Cup and finally the Whitbread. And I wouldn't want to see him running over 4½ miles at Liverpool under 12st 2lb after a hard race at Cheltenham. He'd be much better off in the Whitbread after a longer rest and over his favourite track, Sandown."

"I'd like to see him taken out of the National at the next forfeit stage on February 13. David knows my thinking and I know his, but someone's got to take the decision. "I've nothing against the National itself. I'd like to see him run in the race next year and be specially trained for it."

Corals, the bookmakers, reacted to Burridge's comments by withdrawing Desert Orchid, their original 10-1 favourite, from their ante-post list on the Grand National yesterday.

Desert Orchid, withdrawn from yesterday's Charterhouse Mercantile Chase, is due to travel to Wincanton this afternoon for the Racing In Wessex Chase. Explaining his thinking, Elsworth said: "The going had become very testing and in the high winds it would have been asking too much of him to give so much weight away carrying 12 stone."

"It will be easier at Wincanton where its conditions race and he's conceding a maximum of 13lb."

Racing, pages 40-41

## Gullit doubt remains

Brussels (Reuters) — Rand Gullit, whose worth to The Netherlands is similar to that of Robson to England, may not recover from his latest knee operation in time for the World Cup finals, his Belgian surgeon said yesterday.

Gullit has been out of action since last June and has under-

gone three knee operations in nine months. Marc Martens, his surgeon, said that he would examine Gullit again on March 7. "A healing process is always variable. It cannot be entirely excluded that he will recover. We are a bit more optimistic than a few months ago," he said.

## Insurance is no consolation

By Louise Taylor

Manchester United will be unable to recoup any financial recompense for Bryan Robson's enforced absence. "The premiums involved in insuring him for missing matches would be sky high, it would be impossible," Ken Merrett, the club secretary, said yesterday.

Merrett confirmed that United do have the consolation that Robson's frequent and extensive medical bills are met by private health insurance. "He is covered by BUPA, and that meets the

costs of his tests and treatment," Merrett said.

On the occasions when Robson is injured on international duty, either playing or training, United fare better. "As with every player, if the injury can definitely be attributed to England duty, the Football Association pay Manchester United his wages during the period he is unavailable for selection," David Bloomfield, the FA's press officer, said yesterday.

Bloomfield said that Rob-

## Birthday celebrations cause a problem

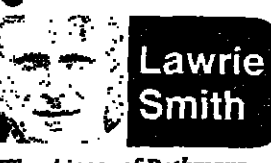
Chatham Islands

I had been told the Auckland start would take some beating, but none of us were quite prepared for the incredible send-off the Whitbread fleet received last Sunday.

Estimates vary from 6,000 to 10,000 spectators boats out in the harbour, and if the winds had been any less, we might still be there fighting through the chop thrown up by all manner of craft ranging from water scooters to ferries.

From our vantage, a wall of boats seemed to surround the fleet and those who chose to run the gamut through them, instead of short-cutting up the cleared channel were asking for trouble. It is amazing that The Car, which lost its sails within minutes of the gun firing, was the only casualty.

The weather mark, which was changed from a ship to a



Lawrie Smith

The skipper of Rothmans reports from the Round the World Yacht Race

temporary orange buoy shortly before the start was impossible to spot in the melee. We came across it purely by chance and the Merit crew lost their early lead by over-standing badly.

Steinlager 2 and Fisher & Paykel, the two local boats, were affected most by the adverse wake from well-wishers, but they caught us up again at the first headland after the rest of us ran out of wind.

We have been playing nip-and-tuck ever since, with all hands performing a continuous round of exhausting sail

changes in an effort to squeeze every last ounce of speed from the ever swinging breeze.

Without any pattern to the wind, it has been almost impossible to plan ahead. Instead, all the yachts, which are now spread over a wide area, took advantage of what local winds their crews could find, and like us have doubtless cursed their luck when falling into holes.

The reason behind these changeable conditions has been Cyclone Nancy, which has twirled its way across the Tasman Sea towards New Zealand's South Island.

Yesterday Rothmans remains just outside the influence of the strong winds, but being the most southerly in the fleet we hope to be among the first to pick up the westerlies today.

In the light of these changeable conditions, the perfor-

mance of Pierre Feltham's Merit has been little short of remarkable. On earlier legs, our two sloops have been evenly matched, but so far during this stage, the Bruce Farr design has proved considerably faster in light winds.

During the first 24 hours, she not only had the legs on the two New Zealand ketches, but put out a 33-mile lead over us. We have since cut this back to 17, but we still need to hit the strong westerlies first if we are to draw back level.

Since it is not allowed under the rules to change the displacement or trim of a yacht during the race we can only assume this added zip is down to new sails the Swiss maxi shipped in Auckland.

The upside to Nancy's effect on the weather systems, has been the beautiful conditions we have enjoyed since the start. We are now in the

Roaring Forties, sweltering under a hot sun in T-shirts and shorts. Indeed, it was so hot yesterday that Kim Morton, my No. 2, is now suffering from the ill-effects of sunburn — a stark change from the frost-bite conditions we endured in these same latitudes during the second stage of this race from Uruguay to Freemantle.

We also came close to celebrating Russell Pickthall's birthday twice over. At one point yesterday, it looked as if we might catch the international dateline midway through the celebrations today. Thankfully the strengthening westerlies carried us over in time, much to the relief of our cook, John Harris, who was worried that an order for two cakes would leave him short of mix for my own birthday in 10 days' time. Latest positions, page 43

Latest positions, page 43

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## Elliott's return

Peter Elliott will make his first British appearance since his victory in the 1,500 metres in the Commonwealth Games when he competes for Great Britain against East Germany at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on February 23.

Elliott is to run in the 800 metres in the Dairy Crest Games, raising the possibility of a meeting with Jens-Peter Herold, who took a bronze medal behind Elliott at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

## Called in

Colombo (Reuters) — Brendon Kuruppu, the wicketkeeper-batsman, has been called into the injury-hit Sri Lankan cricket team which is touring Australia.



Zico: farewell game

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) — Zico, one of Brazil's most distinguished football internationals played his farewell game at the Maracana stadium on Tuesday in front of nearly 100,000 supporters.

Some of the best players of the last 10 years took part, as well as Flamengo, Zico's club.

## New name

East Berlin (Reuters) — The Dynamo Berlin football club wants to start the second half of the season this month with a new name to reflect its break with the now-defunct Stasi security police.

## Right spirit

The future of the Bell's Scottish Open golf championship has been secured for at least another five years following the signing of a new contract by Arthur Bell Distillers, the sponsors.

## Postponed

The Hospitals Cup rugby union semi-final between St Mary's and Charing Cross Westminster, scheduled for Mootspur Park yesterday, was postponed because of the weather. No new date has yet been arranged.

## Hi-tech to detect forgeries

By Alan Lorimer

The Scottish Rugby Union is to consider the use of a hi-tech monitoring system after becoming concerned at the increase in ticket forgeries and the activities of touts which has resulted in tickets changing hands at many times their face value.

Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, said at Murrayfield yesterday: "Action has been taken against clubs and schools where allocated tickets have been sold on to outside buyers at excessive prices. In such circumstances we have stopped the allocation of tickets to the clubs or schools concerned."

Hogg sent a letter to all clubs advising them of their responsibilities in this matter. Of particular concern to the SRU is the loss of a batch of tickets (Ref 06361-06460 for

the French match and Blue 06551-06640 for the Calcutta match).

Advertisements for wanting tickets for the international matches appear regularly in newspapers. On this matter, Hogg said: "Our lawyers have contacted these persons placing the adverts and asked them to desist from so doing." Ticket touting is not illegal, but Chief Superintendent John Johnston, the SRU police adviser, said: "The conduct of both the buyer and seller falls within the crime of obstruction."

In Ireland the touts have been discouraged from operating near Lansdowne Road.

where the measure of stamping each ticket has proved successful. The SRU already has the facility to detect forgeries.

Chief Superintendent Johnston also stated his concern about latecomers and about the continuing problem of alcohol in grounds prohibited under the Criminal Justice (Scotland Act) of 1980.

Brendan Mullin, the Ireland and British Lions centre, is to have an operation today which is likely to keep him out of Ireland's XV to play France in Paris on March 3 (David Hands writes). Mullin, aged 26, who won his 31st cap against Scotland at the weekend, must have a piece of damaged cartilage removed.

Scottish squad, page 42